

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 1 of 77

## 1- This Week

- 1- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM
- 2- VB Roster for tonight's match
- 3- Work on water tower photos
- 4- Smith at state cross country meet
- 5- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 7- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 8- PrairieDoc: Let's get some sleep
- 9- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 10- October 25th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 13- South Dakota COVID-19 Numbers
- 14- Brown County COVID-19 Numbers
- 14- Day County COVID-19 Numbers
- 15- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 16- Weather Pages
- 19- Daily Devotional
- 20- 2020 Groton Events
- 21- News from the Associated Press



“CHOICES ARE  
THE HINGES OF  
DESTINY.”

-EDWIN MARKHAM

# GDILIVE.COM

## Volleyball

Mon., Oct., 26, 2020

7:15 p.m.

Groton at Deuel

### Sponsored by

**Bary Keith at Harr Motors**  
**Mike Nehls for BC Commission**  
**Bahr Spray Foam**  
**Milbrandt Enterprise**

## This Week

**Monday, Oct. 26, 2020**

Volleyball at Deuel High School in Clear Lake (C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then varsity)

**Tues., Oct. 27, 2020**

Volleyball hosting Redfield. (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)



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

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 2 of 77

## High School Volleyball

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020

Groton Area at Deuel (Clear Lake)



### Groton Area Tigers (5-13)

#### VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
2/5	Riley Leicht	5'5	DS	11
3	Kenzie Mcinerney	5'9	MH	12
4	Sydney Leicht	5'6	OH	9
5/2	Alyssa Thaler	5'5	DS/L	11
6/13	Stella Meier	5'9	MH/RH	11
7	Jasmine Gengerke	5'9	RH/MH	12
8	Trista Keith	5'6	DS/L	11
9	Megan Flihs	5'8	MH	11
10	Madeline Flihs	5'9	OH	11
11	Allyssa Locke	5'6	S	11
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
13	Grace Wambach	5'7	OH	12
14/18	Brooklyn Gilbert	5'8	RH/OH	12
15/17	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	RH/OH	11

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
2	Emilie Thurston	5'5	DS/L	11
4	Lydia Meier	5'8	OH	9
5	Sydney Leicht	5'7	OH	9
6/5	Riley Leicht	5'6	OH/RH	11
6	Stella Meier	5'9	MH/RH	11
7	Shallyn Foertsch		OH/RH	10
8	Emma Schinkel	5'8	MH	9
9	Megan Flihs	5'8	MH	11
10	Kelsie Frost	5'10	MH/RH	11
11	Anna Fjeldheim	5'7	OH/S	9
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
14/10	Elizabeth Flihs	5'6	S	8
15	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	OH/RH	11

#### C TEAM

1	Carly Guthmiller		L	9
2	Anna Fjeldheim		OH/RH	9
4	Karsyn Jangula		DS/OH	9
5	Sydney Leicht		OH	9
6	Ashlyn Sperry		DS/RH	9
7	Shallyn Foertsch		OH	10
8	Abby Jensen		DS	9
9	Cadence Feist		OH	9
10	Elizabeth Flihs		S	8
11	Ava Wienk		MH	9
12	Marlee Tollifson		MH	10
13	Hollie Frost		MH	10

Head Coach: Chelsea Hanson

Asst. Coaches: Jenna Strom, Carla Tracy

### Deuel Cardinals (3-12)

#### VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Alyson Hagberg	5'5	S	11
2	Casie Jones	5'2	DS	12
3	Haley Winter	5'10	MH	11
4	Mady Maaland	5'3	DS	12
5	Haille Bury	5'6	DS/L	11
6	Gracie Fieber	5'4	S/DS	10
7	Emma Hamann	5'8	OH	10
8	Marly Leddy	5'8	OH	12
9	Darby Koenecke	5'7	RH	11
10	Twyla Rossow	5'8	MH	12
11	Josie Andersen	5'7	OH	9
15	Harley Hennings	5'8	OH	10

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

1	Brooklyn Giesel	5'6	RH	10
2	Casie Jones	5'2	L	12
3	McKenna Olson	5'7	MH	10
4	Tori Preheim	5'3	S/DS	9
6	Gracie Fieber	5'5	S	10
7	Emma Hamann	5'8	OH	10
8	Faith Coombs	5'2	DS	11
9	Emma Bass	5'10	MH	10
11	Josie Andersen	5'7	OH	9
12	Isabel Schake	5'3	DS	10
13	Annika Kriz	5'6	OH	9
14	Sara Kreger	5'6	OH	9

#### C TEAM

1	Brooklyn Giesel	5'6	RH	10
4	Tori Preheim	5'3	S	9
6	Anna Atkinson	5'6	DS	9
10	Kaitlyn Gubrud	5'6	MH	9
12	Isabel Schake	5'3	DS	10
13	Annika Kriz	5'4	OH	9
14	Sara Kreger	5'6	OH	9
15	Zadie Johnson	5'5	DS	9
16	Jara Adolph	5'6	RH	9
17	Zoey Jorvig	5'7	OH	9
18	Hope Bjerke	5'10	MH	9
20	Ashley Schmaltz	5'3	DS	10

Head Coach: Elizabeth Deboer

Asst. Coaches: Hannah Swenson and Sarah Hagberg

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 3 of 77



**Welding and grinding. And more welding and grinding and work continued Sunday on the new Groton water tower.** (Photos by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 4 of 77



**Senior Isaac Smith was the lone Groton Area runner to compete in the State A Cross Country Meet held in Rapid City this past weekend. Smith ran the 5,000 meter course in 18:50.75 and placed 55th.**

(Photo from Adam Franken's Facebook Page)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 5 of 77

**#245 in a series**

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

After the jolts of the past few days—we added well over a quarter of a million cases in just three days—I've been really looking forward to Sunday reporting. Sundays are always slow days, and this one was a big relief. I don't think this will last, but let's all take a deep breath and regroup before things go back to whatever passes for normal on Tuesday, a day I'm going to approach with trepidation. I'm going to keep this fairly brief tonight; I'm in need of a break. Today, we're at 8,700,100 cases reported in the US so far in the pandemic. Today, there were just 57,400 new case reports, a 0.7% increase from yesterday. We've been over 50,000 cases for a week and over 40,000 for nearly three weeks. There was a time, not all that long ago, when over 40,000 cases was big news; nowadays, it's more of a shrug.

We should note that Texas has passed California as the state with the most total cases reported and that the state passed 900,000 reported cases today. New York passed half a million today as well. These are not milestones to celebrate. At least 35 states reported more new cases in the past seven days than in the prior week, and half of the states have set records for new-case numbers at least once this month. New Jersey reported the highest single-day total since May, Michigan set a record for new cases, and El Paso County in Texas has had a 160% increase in test positivity and has had to increase hospital capacity with an alternate care site. South Dakota has topped 1000 cases for the second time in three days when 1000 when cases had not been seen in a single day before Friday. Hospitalizations hit a record in the state as well. This surge has strained hospital systems. The Oglala Tribe in South Dakota has initiated a seven-day lockdown on the Pine Ridge Reservation in an attempt to protect its people. This has been the deadliest month for the state with 39% of the deaths so far. South Dakota stays second in the country for per capita new case reports behind North Dakota, which reported its lowest total since setting a record for new cases on Thursday. Idaho recorded its worse-ever new-case numbers on Friday and now has hospital systems under serious strain.

New Mexico has had record hospitalizations for two days running. Hospital administrators in Utah have warned they will soon be forced to ration care; they have requested approval of a plan to decide which patients receive priority in care. In Tennessee, a hospital has suspended elective procedures requiring an overnight stay as most of their beds are already filled. And hospitals in El Paso are preparing to airlift some patients to other medical centers.

There were 334 deaths reported today, a 0.1% increase to 225,153. The seven-day average for deaths has increased throughout October. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, whose modeling the White House coronavirus task force has used, is now forecasting the death toll could pass 318,000 by the end of the year. That's really close to 100,000 more in the next two months.

Here is our Sunday two-week summary: Growth rates have increased substantially again this week; this makes three consecutive weeks of escalating increase, that is, not only are the numbers going up, they're going up faster and faster. One-week increase in total cases was 396,700 (5.1%) last week and is 511,400 (6.3%) this week. Two-week increase was 745,200 (10.0%) last week and is 908,100 (11.7%) this week. I have us at a one-week average daily new-case number of 73,057, growth of 28.9% from last week's 56,671. This seven-day average has been increasing all month. This is very serious.

I normally provide some state-by-state analysis at this point; but I have discovered I have an issue with the formulas on my spreadsheet, and I haven't been able to spot the problem. As a result, anything I report here would be wildly inaccurate, and so I have opted to let this go for the week. I will endeavor to sort this out before next week.

My apologies for that.

So, with Halloween less than a week off, how about trick-or-treat? That's a tough one. Emmanuel "Chip" Walter, chief medical officer of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute, says "That's potentially a perfect way to spread the virus." He also says he understands lots of people are going to go ahead anyhow, and so here are some recommendations for reducing the risk:

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 6 of 77

- (1) Travel in small groups to minimize contacts between with children who are not from your household.
- (2) Use hand sanitizer between reaching into bowls of candy.
- (3) If you don't wish contact with others, but wish to participate, you might consider leaving individually-wrapped bags of candy. It is, of course, possible someone will come along and grab all of them.
- (4) You could also have the candy bagged individually to hand out with minimal contact.
- (5) Avoid parties where many children congregate.

Here's the thing—and I know I've made this point before: Even if everyone involved in your Halloween celebration is young and healthy and at low risk, doing things that promote spread in the community—and kids are completely capable of contributing to spread, even, perhaps especially, because they do not get sick themselves—is bad for your community. If we cannot slow down this freight train, it's going to run us right over. Also, while it is not likely, some young and healthy and low-risk people get sick, some of them sick enough to die. We need to each take some responsibility for bringing this thing under control because a coordinated effort from elected officials is not going to happen in many places. That's just the way it is.

Like most of us, as the extent of the changes in his life became apparent, Wade Williams had a lot to process when the pandemic started; it's hard to see so much of your everyday "normal" just disappear. Even with all the disorientation in his own life, he knew he wanted to help; but since he couldn't do traditional kinds of things to help, what with the restrictions imposed by the virus, he had to get creative. He decided it would be a good idea to write a book help kids cope with the uncertainty of this time; and he wanted to write it from the perspective of a kid so kids could relate to it—which turned out to be the easy part. You see, Wade is just five years old himself. His dad, Joshua Williams, told a local news reporter, "He said he wanted to help kids through the pandemic and so obviously, we couldn't be hands-on helping, not as much as pre-COVID."

Joshua and Wade wrote together for about four months, sharing the Williams family's story of life during the pandemic—missing school, not being able to visit or play with friends, the illness of a beloved grandmother, plus his mom giving birth to Wade's baby sister. Their hope was that other kids would see they are not the only ones feeling unsure or scared or sad and to send out positive energy to those kids, in his words, "To help kids get through the pandemic." His dad says, "That was our sole purpose of writing this book, just to let other children know we know that this is a tough time. We're not sugarcoating that everything is perfect. Everything is not perfect. But it will be OK."

Writing it helped Wade to cope, and he wants it to help other kids to feel hope and to stay positive too. His book, "Wade Through the Pandemic," was published earlier this month. Wade's dad says he hopes children who read the book will take away a sense of resiliency. Clearly, Wade has that. And he says, "It feels good" to be an author.

I like a kid who decided to help and then comes up with a way to do it. Good role model for all of us big people too. We see so much wrong around us, so much that isn't working for everybody, even if it's working for us. We really need to get on with fixing that. So please, be like Wade: Decide to help and come up with a way to do it. A life that never seeks to serve is just a big waste of oxygen molecules.

I wish you all years of oxygen consumption, so stay well. I'll be back.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 7 of 77

The Minnesota Vikings are off to one of the worst starts in franchise history. Through six weeks the team is 1-5, and it appears they have finally admitted this season is lost and it's time to start looking towards the future.

The Vikings' offense is averaging:  
25.8 points per game (18th in NFL)  
374.2 yards per game (14th)  
235 passing ypg (21st)  
139.2 rushing ypg (8th).

Taking a look at the stats, a few things immediately stand out. The team's run game is the strength of the offense, especially when you consider the team has been down big in a few games this season and had to abandon the run game. Conversely, the Vikings' passing attack is even worse than the stats indicate. Cousins has been the king of garbage time this season, which leads to inflated and meaningless stats.

The Vikings' defense is allowing:  
32 points per game (31st)  
413.7 yards per game (28th)  
286.7 passing ypg (30th)  
127 rushing ypg (22nd)

The Vikings' offense might be bad, but the defense is one of the worst in the league. After losing seven starters from last season for various reasons (Griffen, Joseph, Hunter, Barr, Rhodes, Waynes, Alexander), it's no surprise there was a drop off in production – but nobody expected the drop off to be so severe.

So now it's clear the Vikings need to rebuild, but what will a rebuild look like? The first step is evaluating everything, from the GM to the head coach to the players. General Manager Rick Spielman and head coach Mike Zimmer signed contract extensions recently, but that doesn't guarantee them a spot on next year's squad. When evaluating the players, the Vikings will need to determine which players to build around, which players have a ton of potential, and which players to cut or trade.

The second step is for the Vikings to rid themselves of players who won't be a part of the future, a task that can be completed in a few different ways. The most beneficial way is to trade players for draft picks – which is exactly what happened when the Vikings traded newly acquired DE Yannick Ngakoue to Baltimore for a third and a fifth-round pick. Some other names that could be potentially be traded are Riley Reiff, Kyle Rudolph, and Anthony Harris.

The biggest question mark is what to do with Kirk Cousins. The quarterback is under contract through 2022, and if the Vikings cut him after this season there will be a \$41 million dead cap hit in 2021. A cheaper option would be for the Vikings to trade him, but I can't imagine there is a team out there willing to pay Cousins \$76 million over the next two seasons. And if the Vikings move on from Cousins, how do they fill the quarterback position? The best (and cheapest) option is the draft. Right now there are three quarterbacks projected to go in the first round, but the only one who is almost guaranteed to be great in the NFL is Trevor Lawrence, who will undoubtedly be the first overall pick in the draft next spring. So unless the team tanks every remaining game, they are likely looking at either Justin Fields and Trey Lance.

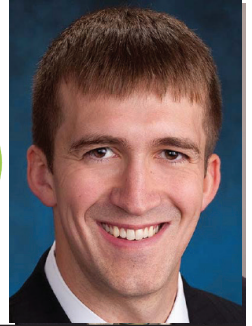
Do you think the Vikings will keep Mike Zimmer and Rick Spielman, or will they be fired at the end of the season? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



By Jordan Wright

## Let's Get Some Sleep

Indeed, there is a lot we can worry about in the world today. It can be so easy to let those problems invade our thoughts as we try to get some sleep. Ideally, our bedrooms are sanctuaries of peace and quiet and places of rest. But televisions, phones, computers, and other devices bring the world and its problems to our beds, and this is not healthy.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Sleep is one of the best ways to help keep our immune system strong to fight off infection and illnesses. And now more than ever, it is important to give our bodies the best chance at fighting off a cold, flu, and disease. Adults need seven to eight hours of sleep every night, while teenagers and elementary children need nine to ten hours.

Regular exercise is one way to help us sleep better. It is best to exercise during the day rather than right before bedtime. We sleep better if we avoid eating large meals within two to three hours of going to bed. But this doesn't mean we must go to bed hungry. We can reach for a small healthy snack like carrot sticks or apple slices. It can also help to keep a regular schedule and have a bedtime ritual, such as brushing our teeth after that final snack.

Reduce caffeine and alcohol consumption, especially near bedtime. And when stressed, we can prepare for better sleep if we take time to relax by gentle stretching, meditation, prayer, or deep breathing.

We can help ourselves by changing our behaviors, but if we experience persistent heartburn or reflux, restless legs, snoring, daytime fatigue, or use the bathroom frequently at night, it's time to visit the doctor for assistance.

Finally, it helps to keep the bedroom comfortable, quiet, dark, and cool. Despite all their conveniences, consider removing those electronic devices from the bedroom. Screen time before bed, whether watching television, phones or laptops is a large and growing reason for insomnia. The bright light from screens tricks our minds into thinking it is daytime so be sure to use the night filter to decrease the amount of light they emit. And, since our bedroom is meant for sleeping, why not set a firm time to turn off all the devices for the day.

"You better get up; people die in their sleep." That's what my dad would say when he was trying to get me out of bed as a teenager. While true, the reverse is also valid, people can die from problems stemming from lack of sleep. So, let's get some sleep and stay healthy out there people!

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.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. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 9 of 77

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26
Minnesota	125,531	126,591	128,152	129,863	132,122	133,802
Nebraska	59,409	60,308	61,285	62,510	63,215	63,797
Montana	24,093		25,640	26,503	27,142	27,880
Colorado	87,582	88,849	90,222	91,572	93,400	95,089
Wyoming	8,070	8,305	8,537	8,918	9,177	9,396
North Dakota	33,666	34,165	35,052	35,939	36,874	37,719
South Dakota	33,836	34,031	34,977	36,109	36,972	37,979
United States	8,275,093	8,338,413	8,411,259	8,497,011	8,578,175	8,636,995
US Deaths	221,083	222,220	223,059	224,005	224,903	225,239

Minnesota	+1,092	+1,060	+1,561	+1,711	+2,259	+1,680
Nebraska	+592	+899	+977	+1,225	+705	+582
Montana	+703		+1,547	+863	+639	+738
Colorado	+1,208	+1,267	+1,373	+1,350	+1,828	+1,689
Wyoming	+146	+235	+232	+381	+259	+219
North Dakota	1,036	+516	+1,038	+886	+935	+851
South Dakota	+562	+558	+948	+1,132	+852	+1017
United States	+59,515	+63,320	+72,846	+85,752	+81,164	+58,820
US Deaths	+949	+1,137	+839	+946	+898	+336

	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20
Minnesota	114,574	115,763	117,106	119,145	121,090	122,812	124,439
Nebraska	53,543	54,467	55,428	56,714	57,334	58,068	58,817
Montana	19,611	20,210	20,933	21,595	22,233	22,821	23,390
Colorado	80,085	80,777	81,918	83,230	84,369	85,302	86,374
Wyoming	6,740	6,914	7,089	7,337	7,479	7,673	7,924
North Dakota	28,245	28,947	29,653	30,414	31,261	31,978	32,637
South Dakota	29,339	30,215	31,012	31,805	32,611	33,269	33,836
United States	7,859,365	7,917,223	7,980,899	8,052,978	8,107,404	8,148,368	8,215,578
US Deaths	215,914	216,904	217,717	218,618	219,311	219,668	220,134
218,							
Minnesota	+1,135	+1,189	+1,343	+2,039	+1,945	+1,722	1,627
Nebraska	+704	+924	+961	1,286	+620	+734	+749
Montana	+486	+599	+723	+662	+638	+588	+569
Colorado	+1,048	+692	+1,141	1,312	+1,139	+933	+1,072
Wyoming	+112	+174	+175	+248	+142	+194	+251
North Dakota	+508	+702	+706	+761	+847	+717	+659
South Dakota	+414	+865	+797	+793	+806	+658	+567
United States	+54,722	+57,858	+63,676	+72,079	+54,426	+40,964	+67,210
US Deaths	+825	+990	+813	+901	+693	+357	+466

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 10 of 77

## October 25th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota recorded nine more deaths for a total of 387. North Dakota recorded eight more deaths for a total of 465. South Dakota's new cases are at 1017 and North Dakota is at 851. Today's positivity rate is 21.9 percent in South Dakota and is at 9.7 percent in North Dakota.

In South Dakota, six males and three females with eight in the 80+ age group and one their 70s. Davison County reported three new deaths, Turner County had two and Hughes, Jerauld, Miner and Ziebach each had one death.

In Brown County there are 19 beds occupied by COVID-19 patients with five in ICU and one using a ventilator. Walworth has 5 Covid-19 patients, Marshall 1, Grant 3, Day 2, Spink 2, Hand 2, Hughes had 6 COVID-19 patients with three in ICU beds, Faulk has three, Potter had six. In other counties, Lawrence has 3 beds occupied with COVID-19 cases with 1 in a ICU bed, Hughes County has 6 hospitalized with 3 in ICU. None are hospitalized in Clark or Roberts county. In Minnehaha County, there are 168 beds occupied by COVID-19 patients with 42 in ICU and 26 using ventilation.

#### Brown County:

Total Positive: +33 (1,934) Positivity Rate: 17.8%  
Total Tests: +185 (17,099)  
Recovered: +20 (1,545)  
Active Cases: +13 (392)  
Ever Hospitalized: +2 (103)  
Deaths: +0 (4)  
Percent Recovered: 79.9

#### South Dakota:

Positive: +1017 (37,979 total) Positivity Rate: 21.9%  
Total Tests: 4,639 (401,913 total)  
Hospitalized: +100 (2,436 total). 366 currently hospitalized +10)  
Deaths: +9 (375 total)  
Recovered: +526 (28,083 total)  
Active Cases: +527 (10,745)  
Percent Recovered: 73.9%  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 14% Covid, 52% Non-Covid, 35% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 25% Covid, 40% Non-Covid, 35% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 8% Covid, 19% Non-Covid, 73% Available

We are just listing a few counties and our local ones. If you have a county of request, let me know and I can add this to the daily report.

Brown (4): +33 positive, +20 recovered (392 active cases)

Clark: +4 positive, +1 recovered (48 active cases)

Clay (8): +27 positive, +8 recovered (151 active cases)

Davison (8): +23 positive, +11 recovered (312 active

cases)

Day (2): +6 positive, +0 recovered (40 active cases)

Edmunds (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (26 active

cases)

Faulk (1): +6 positive, +5 recovered (84 active cases)

Grant (2): +6 positive, +2 recovered (84 active cases)

Hanson (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (31 active cases)

Hughes (6): +16 positive, +8 recovered (181 active

cases)

Lawrence (6): +22 positive, +20 recovered (261 active

cases)

Lincoln (18): +58 positive, +27 recovered (733 active

cases)

Marshall (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (12 active

cases)

McCook (1): +7 positive, +6 recovered (66 active cases)

McPherson: +1 positive, +5 recovery (16 active case)

Minnehaha (106): +207 positive, +112 recovered (1714

active cases)

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

Roberts (4): +8 positive, +8 recovered (72 active

cases)

Spink (1): +9 positive, +4 recovered (78 active cases)

Walworth (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (84 active

cases)

#### ND COVID-19 Daily Report, October 25:

- 10.7% rolling 14-day positivity
- 851 new positives
- 8,381 susceptible test encounters
- 164 currently hospitalized (-2)
- 6,506 active cases (+196)
- 456 total deaths (+8)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 11 of 77

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	165	122	696	0	Substantial	21.05%
Beadle	1199	917	3907	13	Substantial	21.38%
Bennett	156	95	934	5	Substantial	23.44%
Bon Homme	633	154	1550	1	Substantial	36.19%
Brookings	1380	994	6267	4	Substantial	22.18%
Brown	1941	1545	8541	4	Substantial	21.21%
Brule	261	179	1397	2	Substantial	26.85%
Buffalo	237	199	813	4	Substantial	27.78%
Butte	304	177	2057	3	Substantial	28.50%
Campbell	74	41	157	0	Substantial	39.39%
Charles Mix	365	256	2938	0	Substantial	10.39%
Clark	101	53	669	0	Substantial	18.42%
Clay	784	625	3226	8	Substantial	20.29%
Codington	1419	1067	6310	10	Substantial	21.63%
Corson	166	116	769	1	Substantial	45.95%
Custer	303	234	1675	3	Substantial	30.00%
Davison	847	527	4417	8	Substantial	18.58%
Day	154	112	1190	2	Substantial	19.78%
Deuel	177	126	773	0	Substantial	22.31%
Dewey	298	206	3356	0	Substantial	17.28%
Douglas	159	110	686	4	Substantial	15.09%
Edmunds	136	109	713	1	Moderate	4.53%
Fall River	190	129	1751	6	Substantial	21.60%
Faulk	201	116	517	1	Substantial	28.00%
Grant	290	204	1467	2	Substantial	15.69%
Gregory	208	149	790	10	Substantial	18.10%
Haakon	86	48	416	1	Substantial	9.16%
Hamlin	187	137	1190	0	Substantial	10.55%
Hand	113	73	558	1	Substantial	13.33%
Hanson	85	53	443	1	Moderate	16.42%
Harding	46	15	108	0	Substantial	68.75%
Hughes	827	640	3728	6	Substantial	17.12%
Hutchinson	212	145	1548	2	Substantial	11.15%

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 12 of 77

Hyde	38	28	294	0	Moderate	21.05%
Jackson	109	66	753	1	Substantial	19.77%
Jerauld	155	128	377	12	Moderate	10.53%
Jones	31	27	126	0	Moderate	43.75%
Kingsbury	169	101	1021	2	Substantial	16.20%
Lake	347	249	1838	8	Substantial	26.32%
Lawrence	836	569	5367	6	Substantial	18.91%
Lincoln	2584	1833	12984	18	Substantial	24.32%
Lyman	247	196	1402	5	Substantial	9.64%
Marshall	62	45	759	1	Moderate	17.78%
McCook	220	154	1088	1	Substantial	10.30%
McPherson	64	48	392	0	Moderate	7.30%
Meade	900	701	4980	10	Substantial	15.69%
Mellette	71	50	561	1	Moderate	16.67%
Miner	137	72	407	1	Substantial	34.78%
Minnehaha	10411	7885	51146	106	Substantial	17.86%
Moody	203	130	1079	2	Substantial	23.15%
Oglala Lakota	832	386	5509	5	Substantial	21.47%
Pennington	4136	3022	24484	49	Substantial	12.98%
Perkins	74	51	461	0	Moderate	19.44%
Potter	99	68	588	0	Substantial	10.26%
Roberts	330	254	3189	4	Substantial	16.87%
Sanborn	86	55	421	0	Substantial	25.64%
Spink	253	174	1657	1	Substantial	11.48%
Stanley	90	62	518	0	Substantial	21.74%
Sully	41	29	167	0	Substantial	38.71%
Todd	418	274	3336	6	Substantial	25.00%
Tripp	258	210	1123	2	Substantial	13.15%
Turner	446	257	1810	11	Substantial	23.53%
Union	719	540	3992	11	Substantial	18.67%
Walworth	265	179	1272	2	Substantial	20.89%
Yankton	781	499	5692	5	Substantial	8.42%
Ziebach	87	68	560	2	Moderate	13.64%
Unassigned	0	0	1817	0		

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 13 of 77

## South Dakota



### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1226	0
10-19 years	4222	0
20-29 years	8136	2
30-39 years	6558	7
40-49 years	5488	12
50-59 years	5529	30
60-69 years	4236	53
70-79 years	2189	72
80+ years	1619	199

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	20440	176
Male	18763	199

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 14 of 77

## Brown County



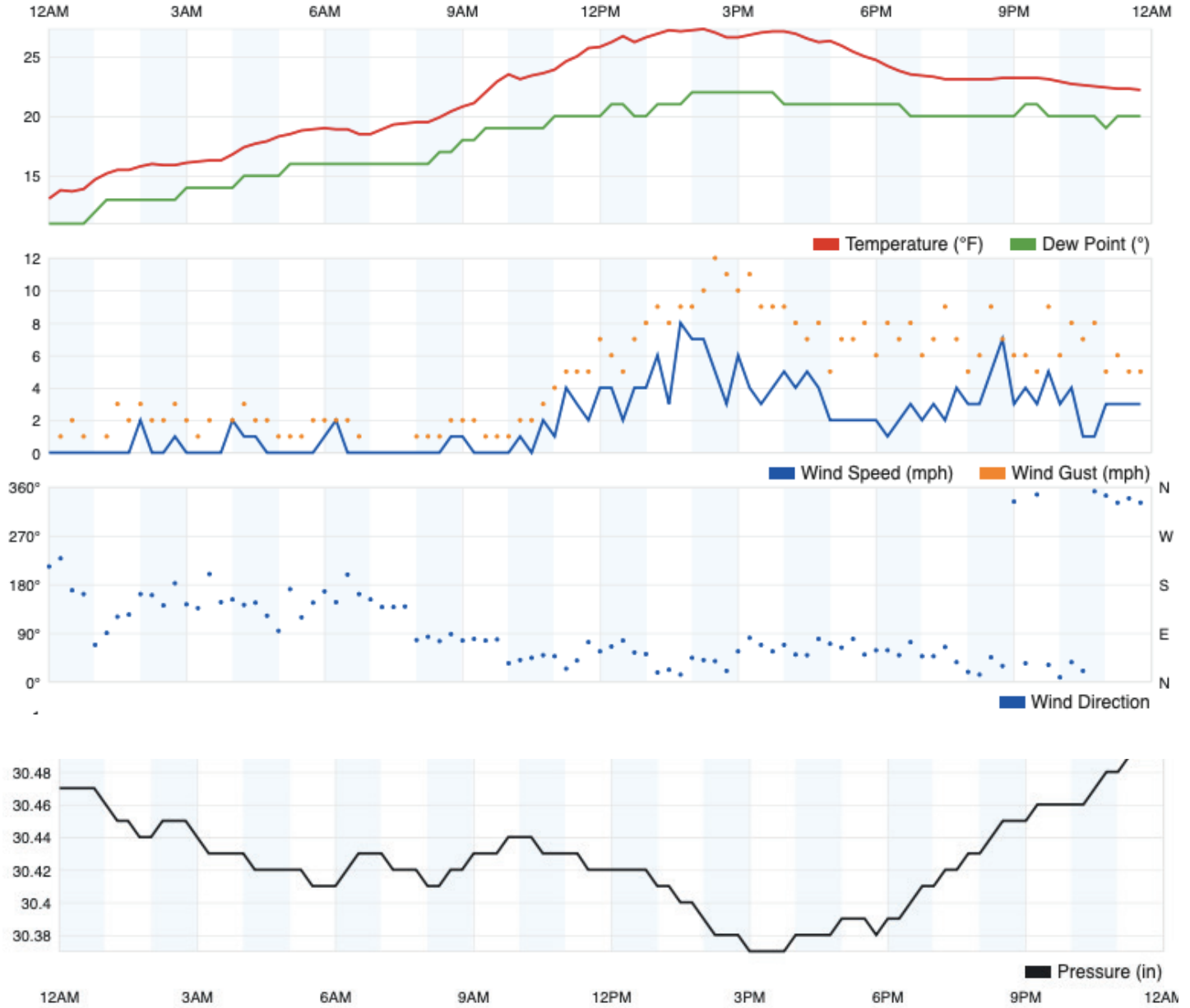
## Day County



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 15 of 77

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 16 of 77

Today



Sunny

High: 18 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 5 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 28 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 24 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 37 °F

*Cold Today, Gradual Warming Rest of the Week*

*Today*

- Partly Sunny & Cold
- Highs 14-23°F

*Tuesday*

- Partly Cloudy
- Highs 26-40°F

*Wednesday*

- Partly Cloudy & Milder
- Highs 33-45°F



Graphic Created 10/26/2020 2:47 AM

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

A dry week is expected region wide. Temperatures will be quite cold today, but will be on the increase through the rest of the week. #sdwx #mnwx



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 17 of 77

## Today in Weather History

October 26, 1919: Record cold occurred across the area on this day in 1919. Temperatures fell below zero at many locations across central and northeast South Dakota and into west-central Minnesota. The record lows were 3 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 4 degrees below zero at Wheaton, 5 degrees below zero at Kennebec, 8 degrees below zero at McIntosh, and a much below average low of 10 degrees below zero at Miller.

October 26, 1996: A rare and significant late-season tornado outbreak took place as a low-pressure system trekked across the North-Central US. A series of low-topped supercells during the morning and afternoon hours produced a total of 26 tornadoes; 3 in Nebraska, 9 in northeastern South Dakota, and 14 across west-central and central Minnesota. Five of these were rated F2, and while no fatalities resulted, 15 people were injured, and there was a good deal of property damage. To help put the extraordinary timing of this event in perspective, in the 66 years of record-keeping from 1950-2015, Minnesota has only recorded 15 other October tornadoes, and South Dakota 9.

October 26, 2010: A record-breaking surface low-pressure area moved across the Northern Plains and brought high winds to all of central and northeast South Dakota from the early morning of the 26th into the early evening of the 27th. Big Fork, Minnesota, measured a surface low pressure of 955.2 millibars. Sustained northwest winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 to 75 mph caused scattered property damage across the region along with blowing several vehicles off the road. Along with the high winds came snowfall of 1 to 5 inches, which resulted in treacherous driving conditions. Several schools started late on the 27th due to the slippery roads and strong winds. The high winds, combined with slick roads at times, blew several semis and other vehicles off the road on Interstate-29 and other locations across the region. Only minor injuries occurred with these incidents. The high winds damaged many traffic signs and signals, downed many power lines and poles, along with downing branches and several trees. As a result, several hundred customers were without power for a time across the area. The high winds caused roof and siding damage to many buildings along with damaging some fences. A shed was also destroyed near Sisseton.

1865: A hurricane sank the steamship USS Mobile off the Georgia coast. The wreck, laden with 20,000 gold coins, was found in 2003.

1952: There have been thousands of weather reconnaissance and research flights into hurricanes in the Atlantic and Pacific since the mid-1940s. There have been several close calls, but only four flights have been lost. A B-29 Super-fortress flight into Super Typhoon Wilma 350 miles east of Leyte in the Philippines disappeared on this date. No trace was ever found of the plane or crew. In the last report, the flight was in the Super typhoon's strongest winds, which were around 160 mph.

1997: An autumn snowstorm pummeled central and south-central Nebraska with record early season snows. Wind-driven snowfall amounts totaled as much as two feet by storms' end. Several highways were closed, including Interstate 80, as near-blizzard conditions developed. Once the snow subsided, the record early season snow totals were tallied. Guide Rock measured twenty-four inches of snow, Clay Center twenty-three inches, and Hastings seventeen inches. A fifty-mile wide swath of snow more than fifteen inches fell from near Alma to York. Amounts further north averaged from four to eight inches. The heavy, wet snow was responsible for many power outages in the area as tree limbs broke and fell on power lines. At one point, the town of Hardy had no power and could not be accessed by vehicles due to the snow. Numerous schools and businesses remained closed several days following the storm. Many highways, including Interstate 80, closed at the height of the storm. On Highway 136 east of Alma, road crews worked for ten hours carving through a ten-foot drift that covered the road. Record cold accompanied the snow as temperatures dropped to the single digits on the morning of the 26th.

# Groton Daily Independent

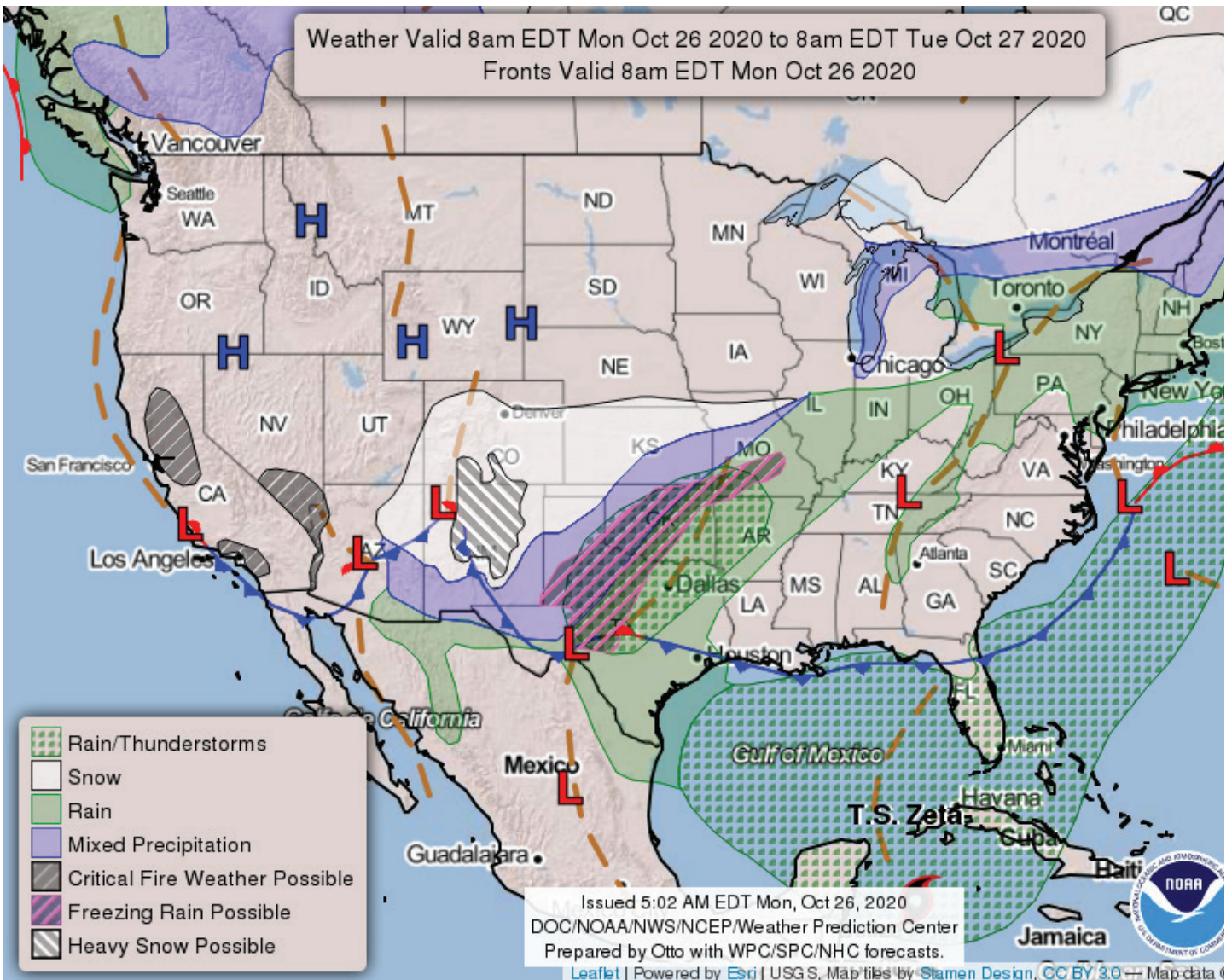
Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 18 of 77

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 26 °F at 2:12 PM**  
**Low Temp: 14 °F at 9:27 PM**  
**Wind: 16 mph at 2:20 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 83° in 1922**  
**Record Low: -3° in 1919**  
**Average High: 52°F**  
**Average Low: 29°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 1.72**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 1.06**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.20**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:29 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 19 of 77



## **NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD!**

Mr. Williams always took great care to encourage his students. Each day he would challenge them to do and be their best.

One Monday morning he decided to begin the week asking each student to share their goals in life.

"Matt," he asked the sad looking student in the front row, "what do you want to be when you grow up?"

"Possible," came the forlorn reply.

"What do you mean, 'possible', Matt?" he wondered.

"Well," he said in a hopeless voice, "my Dad's always saying to me, 'Son, you are impossible.' So, someday I want to know what it's like to be possible, I guess."

Jesus on many occasions dispelled the "myth of the impossible." On one occasion He said, "Nothing will be impossible for you." On another, He promised, "With men this is impossible, but not with God. All things are possible." On another occasion He said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Paul said, "I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need." And he did! He was a warrior who became the ultimate witness. He was the one who approved the stoning of Stephen, yet he became one of God's most famous saints. He was the one who demonstrated to us that freedom comes from surrender – by exchanging our pursuits for God's and our plans to the plan that God has for us. He is the one who first proclaimed that forgiveness and eternal life are available to anyone who believes!

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to look beyond what we are to what we can become if we make ourselves available to Your transforming power. Help us to "do it!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I can do all things because Christ gives me the strength. Philippians 4:13

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 20 of 77

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

### Wing warden: Black Hills State student rescues butterflies

By MARK WATSON Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — In late September the news of planned construction on the Kathryn Johnson Life Sciences Laboratory at Black Hills State University sent one student scrambling to rescue the chrysalises of monarch butterflies.

Butterfly enthusiast Kara Whalen, 28, of Spearfish, who is studying nursing at BHSU saw what she believed was a monarch caterpillar while walking on the sidewalk near the building in mid-September.

After class she returned to the bushes and started searching the milkweed — the only plant monarchs will eat.

“They were absolutely loaded,” Whalen previously told the Black Hills Pioneer of the milkweed bushes. “I’d say there were no less than 30, and they were fat, chunky boys. I knew they were getting close to transforming, and I was overall excited to watch them go through their transformation process.”

Several days later she took a classmate to see the caterpillars and they were gone meaning that had gone into their chrysalis phase.

Chrysalises are what the monarch caterpillars create before they undergo metamorphosis and turn into a butterfly.

Then she learned of the planned construction. She scrambled to organize a day to locate and transplant as many chrysalises she could that were in danger of disruption from the construction.

She found 11, and then learned that since BHSU is a pollinator-friendly campus, the facilities staff delayed construction on the building allowing the butterflies to emerge naturally. They instead would work on another building.

And then the weather turned for the worse.

Whalen ultimately transplanted 12, she ended up finding others later, into a butterfly tent where they would remain until they emerged from the chrysalis.

Last week, four butterflies emerged. All were males. Whalen identified them by the black spots on their wings.

“I found it funny that when I spoke the first time I said, ‘these caterpillars were all chunky boys.’ Well apparently, without knowing, I gendered the heck out of them accurately,” she said.

On some butterflies the black dots on wings are pheromone pods, she said. But not on monarchs. They are simply for looks.

Whalen said more may emerge, but it is unlikely.

“The other ones are looking like at some point during their development they came into contact with some type of predator,” she said.

That could be from an *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) protozoa, a tachinid fly, or a parasitic wasp.

“From egg to adult, monarchs have only a 10% survival rate,” she said.

Whalen, with the help of Kelly Harnett, founder of Beautify Spearfish, tagged the butterflies before releasing them. The tags, small stickers that are placed on the wings, will allow butterfly-tracking groups to note sighting locations to help track the migration.

The monarchs that emerged here are considered the fourth generation. This is the generation that will migrate from as far north as Canada’s southern-most regions, to Mexico. Once in Mexico, they will spend the winter before traveling north once more. Once around the Mexican border, they will lay eggs, 200-300 at a time and only a single egg on a single milkweed stalk, she said. Shortly thereafter, the butterflies will die.

Once the eggs hatch, they mark the first generation of monarch caterpillars. The first through third generations live only two to six weeks, Whalen said. The fourth generation, which doesn’t reach sexual maturity until spring, will live up to nine months.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 22 of 77

Whalen said monarchs need milkweed to lay their eggs upon and to feed upon. She and Harnett have been collecting native seeds to expand pollinator gardens in the area.

Whalen said monarch numbers are declining dramatically due to the increased use of genetically modified crop seeds that allow insecticide and herbicides to be sprayed on them. This prevents native milkweed from forming in the area. Additionally, as more people plant manicured lawns, milkweed goes by the wayside.

The numbers have declined to a point that the monarchs are being considered to be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

What began as an appreciation for the butterfly has turned itself into hours of studying about the species. "Of course, if I'm going to do all this research, I might as well do a paper for school," she joked.

## South Dakota tops 1,000 virus cases for 2nd time in 3 days

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of new COVID-19 cases in South Dakota increased by more than 1,000 for the second time in three days, state health officials reported Sunday.

The state Department of Health reported 1,063 new cases in the last day, two days after the state recorded a daily high of 1,185 cases. A total of 3,187 positive tests were confirmed in the last three days and 37,979 cumulative infections have been diagnosed since the pandemic began.

There have been 10,411 positive tests in Minnehaha County, which includes Sioux Falls.

Figures compiled Saturday by Johns Hopkins University researchers shows there were more than 1,155 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.

There are 366 patients being treated in medical facilities across the state for complications due to COVID-19, state data shows.

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

## Are neighboring states part of rural Minnesota virus growth?

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Statistics from Minnesota health officials show that the 10 counties with the fastest growth in coronavirus cases since the beginning of October are all in rural parts of the state, many of which border surrounding states.

Adjusted for population, the rate of new cases across 56 counties in greater Minnesota tripled between early September and early October, compared with a doubling of the rate across the seven-county Twin Cities area, the Star Tribune reported.

Kris Ehresmann, director of the infectious disease division at the Minnesota Department of Health, suggested it could stem from fewer people in more sparsely populated areas wearing masks, maintaining enough physical distance and following other public health guidelines to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Other health experts suggest rural Minnesota residents are influenced by the example of neighboring states where public health responses such as mask mandates haven't been as aggressive. There's also the possibility that people in border communities could become infected when traveling to Wisconsin and the Dakotas.

Houston County, Minnesota, sits across the Mississippi River from La Crosse, Wisconsin, one of the nation's COVID-19 hot spots. The Minnesota county has had more new cases in the past six weeks of the pandemic than it reported in the first six months. It has led to the temporary closing of school in La Crescent, across the river from La Crosse.

"A good number of our population commutes to La Crosse on a daily basis for work, for shopping, for other things," said John Pugsleasa, Houston County's director of public health and human services. "That's a population that's had a significant increase, and our folks are in and out of there a lot. That's the definition of community transmission."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 23 of 77

The situation in La Crescent forced Amy Jore to juggle waitressing and motherhood while working one morning last week at Kaddy's Kafe. Jore was serving her customers while supervising her 10-year-old son, Henry, as he tackled his homework in the restaurant's storeroom.

"My main concern is the lack of control we have as people of the community, and the lack of protection I can provide for my family," Jore said. "This has had an impact on my family — financially, mentally, emotionally."

Minnesota health officials on Sunday reported 1,682 new confirmed cases and 21 deaths in the last day related to COVID-19. A total of 133,431 positive tests and 2,335 deaths have been confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

## Election could stoke US marijuana market, sway Congress

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

Voters in four states from different regions of the country could embrace broad legal marijuana sales on Election Day, and a sweep would highlight how public acceptance of cannabis is cutting across geography, demographics and the nation's deep political divide.

The Nov. 3 contests in New Jersey, Arizona, South Dakota and Montana will shape policies in those states while the battle for control of Congress and the White House could determine whether marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Already, most Americans live in states where marijuana is legal in some form and 11 now have fully legalized the drug for adults — Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. It's also legal in Washington, D.C.

In conservative Mississippi, voters will consider competing ballot proposals that would legalize medicinal marijuana, which is allowed in 33 states.

Nick Kovacevich, CEO of KushCo Holdings, which supplies packaging, vape hardware and solvents for the industry, called the election "monumental" for the future of marijuana.

New Jersey, in particular, could prove a linchpin in the populous Northeast, leading New York and Pennsylvania toward broad legalization, he said.

"It's laying out a domino effect ... that's going to unlock the largest area of population behind the West Coast," Kovacevich said.

The cannabis initiatives will draw voters to the polls who could influence other races, including the tight U.S. Senate battle in Arizona.

In Colorado, one supporter of legal cannabis could lose his seat. Republican Sen. Cory Gardner, who is struggling in an increasingly Democratic state where some in the industry have lost faith in his ability to get things done in Washington.

Despite the spread of legalization in states and a largely hands-off approach under President Donald Trump, the Republican-controlled Senate has blocked cannabis reform, so under federal law marijuana remains illegal and in the same class as heroin or LSD. That has discouraged major banks from doing business with marijuana businesses, which also were left out in the coronavirus relief packages.

"Change doesn't come from Washington, but to Washington," said Steve Hawkins, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project. "States are sending a clear message to the federal government that their constituencies want to see cannabis legalization."

The presidential election could also influence federal marijuana policy, though the issue has been largely forgotten in a campaign dominated by the pandemic, health care and the nation's wounded economy.

Trump's position remains somewhat opaque. He has said he is inclined to support bipartisan efforts to ease the U.S. ban on marijuana but hasn't established a clear position on broader legalization. He's appointed attorneys general who loath marijuana, but his administration has not launched crackdowns against businesses in states where pot is legal.

Joe Biden has said he would decriminalize — but not legalize — the use of marijuana, while expunging all prior cannabis use convictions and ending jail time for drug use alone. But legalization advocates recall

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 24 of 77

with disgust that he was a leading Senate supporter of a 1994 crime bill that sent droves of minor drug offenders to prison.

Even if there are lingering doubts about Biden, the Democratic Party is clearly more welcoming to cannabis reform, especially its progressive wing. Vice presidential nominee and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California has said making pot legal at the federal level is the "smart thing to do."

Familiar arguments are playing out across the states.

Opponents fear children will be lured into use, roads will become drag strips for stoned drivers and widespread consumption will spike health care costs.

Those backing legalization point out the market is already here, though in many cases still thriving underground, and argue that products should be tested for safety. Legal sales would mean tax money for education and other services, and social-justice issues are also in play, after decades of enforcement during the war on drugs.

An added push this year could come from the virus-damaged economy — states are strapped for cash and legalized cannabis holds out the promise of a tax windfall. One Arizona estimate predicts \$255 million a year would eventually flow for state and local governments, in Montana, \$50 million.

Despite the pandemic and challenges including heavy taxes and regulation, marijuana sales are climbing. Arcview Market Research/BDSA expects U.S. sales to climb to \$16.3 billion this year, up from \$12.4 billion in 2019.

In New Jersey, voters are considering a constitutional amendment that would legalize marijuana use for people 21 and over. It's attracted broad support in voter surveys. If approved, it's unclear when shops would open. The amendment also subjects cannabis to the state's sales tax, and lets towns and cities add local taxes.

The Arizona measure known as Proposition 207 would let people 21 and older possess up to an ounce or a smaller quantity of concentrates, allow for sales at licensed retailers and for people to grow their own plants. Retail sales could start in May. State voters narrowly rejected a previous legalization effort in 2016.

If Montana voters approve, sales would start in 2022. Montana passed a medicinal marijuana law in 2004 and updated it in 2016. The proposed law would allow only owners of current medical marijuana businesses to apply for licenses to grow and sell marijuana for the broader marketplace for the first year.

Perhaps no other state epitomizes changing views more than solidly conservative South Dakota, which has some of the country's strictest drug laws.

The sparsely populated state could become the first to approve medicinal and adult-use marijuana at the same time. However, legalizing broad pot sales would be a jump for a state where lawmakers recently battled for nearly a year to legalize industrial hemp, a non-intoxicating cannabis plant.

Meanwhile, a confusing situation has unfolded in Mississippi, after more than 100,000 registered voters petitioned to put Initiative 65 on the ballot. It would allow patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating conditions, as certified by physicians. But legislators put an alternative on the ballot, which sponsors of the original proposal consider an attempt to scuttle their effort.

Hawkins is among those already looking toward 2021, when a new round of states could move toward legalization, including New York and New Mexico.

"There is clearly a tide," Hawkins said. "We are moving toward a critical mass of states that ... will bring about the end of federal prohibition on cannabis."

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Associated Press writers Michael Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey; Bob Christie in Phoenix; Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Amy Beth Hanson in Helena, Montana; Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi; and Nick Riccardi in Denver contributed.

## The Latest: More UK restrictions expected in virus fight

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — British authorities are likely to tighten restrictions on more areas of the country this week,



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 25 of 77

amid mixed signs about whether recent measures have stemmed a steep rise in coronavirus infections. Government scientific advisers say there are some signs the increase has begun to level off since a three-tier virus risk system of restrictions came into effect, but that it's too soon to be certain.

A large chunk of northern England, including the major cities of Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield, has been placed in the top tier of "very high" risk, with pubs closed and people from different households barred from mixing.

The regional disparities are causing friction between local politicians in the north and Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government, which has been accused of not doing enough to support people and businesses hit by the local lockdowns.

The government says it is talking to local leaders in other areas, including the city of Warrington in northwest England and the central England county of Nottinghamshire, about moving into the highest tier.

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have established their own public health rules, with Wales introducing the strictest measure: a 17-day lockdown for all its 3 million people.

Britain has Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak, with almost 45,000 confirmed deaths.

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

- Trump to intensify his campaign schedule despite U.S. virus surge, new White House outbreak
- Wary of angering public with restrictions, Iran has few ways to contain virus
- Europe's restaurants and bars are being walloped by new virus curfews and restrictions
- Spain announces a state of emergency to tamp down surging virus infections
- Mexico acknowledges far more deaths than officially confirmed, saying 139,153 now attributable to COVID-19
- Fear and anxiety are spiking along with the virus in U.S. hot spots

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PARIS — Virus patients now occupy more than half of France's intensive care units, and some doctors are urging tougher restrictions after another record jump in confirmed infections.

Dr. Jean-Francois Delfraissy, head of the government's virus advisory body, expressed surprise Monday at the "brutality" of the rise, after more than 52,000 new cases were reported Sunday.

Speaking on RTL radio, he floated the idea of local lockdowns or extending France's 9p.m. to 6 a.m. curfews, which currently cover about half of the country and more than two-thirds of its people.

The number of people hospitalized in France with the virus has climbed sharply in recent weeks, putting renewed pressure on ICUs. COVID patients now fill more than two-thirds of the ICUs in the Paris region.

Dr. Eric Caumes, head of the infectious and tropical diseases department at Paris' Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital, told broadcaster Franceinfo on Monday that "we have lost control of the epidemic, though it doesn't date from yesterday."

France has been among countries hardest-hit by the pandemic, reporting 34,761 virus-related deaths. It is currently registering more than 340 positive cases per 100,000 people nationwide each week.

Delfraissy warns that this latest wave of the virus could be "stronger than the first" and is spreading all around Europe.

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia's minister of tourism has tested positive for coronavirus as the small European Union nation continued to report a surge in the new cases.

The state Hina news agency said Nikolina Brnjac tested positive after attending a government meeting Saturday. Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic tested negative, the government said Monday, but two ministers who sat next to Brnjac have been told to self-isolate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 26 of 77

Experts in Croatia and some neighboring countries blame the country's summer tourist season for the rise in new cases, saying there was little or no distancing on Adriatic beaches or in nightclubs.

On Saturday, Croatia's daily number of new infections soared past 2,000 for the first time.

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** — As of Monday, Denmark lowered the limit for public gatherings to 10 from a previous 50 and urged that the same number is respected for get-togethers in private homes.

There were a few exceptions, namely sporting events where there can be a maximum of 500 people inside a stadium and funerals where 50 people can gather.

Another new restriction is no alcohol can be sold after 10 p.m.

From Thursday on, it will be mandatory in Denmark to wear face masks in public places like supermarkets, libraries and theaters.

Earlier the government has ordered people to wear face masks on public transportation and when walking inside restaurants, bars or cafes.

Denmark has had 40,356 confirmed virus cases and 702 reported deaths.

**MELBOURNE, Australia** — Australia's former coronavirus hot spot Melbourne will largely emerge from lockdown after the city on Monday recorded its first day without a new COVID-19 case in more than four months.

Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said from 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday all shops, restaurants, cafes and bars will be allowed to open and outdoors contact sports can resume.

From 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 8, Melbourne residents will no longer be restricted to traveling within 25 kilometers (16 miles) of their homes.

Melbourne, the nation's second-largest city, has been under strict lockdown measures since early July and the state government has been accused of inflicting unnecessary economic damage by not relaxing restrictions sooner.

The last time Victoria recorded a 24-hour period without a single case was June 9 before a second wave of infections began. A week has passed since Victoria lost a life to COVID-19. The death of a man aged in his 90s on Oct. 19 brought the state's death toll to 817. Only 88 people have died with COVID-19 elsewhere in Australia.

Victoria's daily infection tally peaked at 725 in early August.

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — Sri Lanka's Parliament has closed for the premises to be disinfected after COVID-19 was diagnosed in a police officer serving there.

A coronavirus cluster that began among garment factory workers earlier this month has grown to 4,400 cases, more than half the country's total of 7,872. The death toll climbed to 16 on Sunday.

During the last 24 hours, 351 new patients have been detected and the majority are from the garment cluster.

To contain the spread, the government has closed schools and banned gatherings across Sri Lanka, and a curfew is in effect in many parts of Western province, where the infections have been concentrated.

Several thousand people have been asked to quarantine at home, while another 8,421 people are being quarantined at military-run centers.

**NEW DELHI** — India's coronavirus cases are continuing to decline but rising air pollution and Hindu festivals are raising fears of new infections.

The Health Ministry said 45,148 new cases have taken India's tally to 7.9 million on Monday. It also reported 480 deaths in the past 24 hours, raising total fatalities to 119,014.

The Indian capital is seeing an upsurge with nearly 4,000 new cases, the highest in the past five weeks. Experts expressed concern over severe air pollution caused by farm fires, exhaust from diesel generators, dust from construction sites and burning of garbage.

"When you have high levels of air pollution you will see an increase of severe COVID-19 infections," said

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 27 of 77

Dr. Randeep Guleria, a government health expert.

The southern coastal state of Kerala is the second-worst state for active cases in the country. India's Health Minister Harsh Vardhan blamed "gross negligence" during the 10-day Onam festival in late August.

**B**ERLIN — The head of the United Nations says that "the Covid-19 pandemic is the greatest crisis of our age."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened an online session Sunday of the World Health Summit with a call for worldwide solidarity in the global crisis and demanded that developed countries support health systems in countries that are short of resources.

The coronavirus pandemic is the overarching theme of the summit, which originally had been scheduled for Berlin. Several of the leaders and experts who spoke at the opening stressed the need to cooperate across borders.

"No one is safe from COVID-19. No one is safe until we are all safe from it," said German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "Even those who conquer the virus within their own borders remain prisoners within these borders until it is conquered everywhere."

More than 42 million have been infected with the virus and over 1 million people have died of Covid.

**R**OME — Italy's one-day caseload of confirmed coronavirus infections jumped past 20,000 on Sunday, with more than a quarter of the new cases registered in Lombardy, the northern region which bore the brunt of the pandemic in the country earlier this year.

According to Health Ministry figures, there were 21,273 new cases since the previous day, raising Italy's total of confirmed COVID-19 infections to 525,782.

Health Minister Roberto Speranza said the government's latest crackdown on social freedoms, including closing restaurants in early evening and shuttering gyms, for the next 30 days, was warranted by the growth of the contagion curve worldwide, with a "very high wave" in all of Europe.

"Every choice brings sacrifices and renouncing" activities, Speranza said. "We must react immediately and with determination if we want to avoid unsustainable numbers."

Italy's confirmed death toll in the pandemic rose to 37,338, with 128 deaths since Saturday.

**P**HOENIX -- Arizona health officials on Sunday reported 1,392 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and five additional deaths. It's the highest reported single-day coronavirus case total in the state since Sept. 17.

Arizona has continued to see a slow yet steady increase in the average number of COVID-19 cases reported each day as a decline that lasted through August and September reverses.

State Department of Health Services officials said the latest numbers increase Arizona's totals to 238,163 known infections and 5,874 known deaths.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

## **Biden, Trump focus on battleground states in 11th-hour pitch**

By ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

**W**ASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to intensify an already breakneck travel schedule in the final full week of the presidential campaign, overlooking a surge of coronavirus cases in the U.S. and a fresh outbreak in his own White House.

Trump is expected to hit nearly a dozen states in his last-ditch effort to recover ground from Democrat Joe Biden, including Sunday's trip to Maine and Tuesday's to Nebraska. Both states award electoral votes by congressional district and could be crucial in a tight election. He will hold 11 rallies in the final 48 hours alone.

Biden, too, plans to pick up his travel schedule, aiming to hit the six battleground states the campaign sees as key to his chances, some with socially distanced in-person events and others with virtual events.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 28 of 77

On Tuesday the former vice president is traveling to Georgia, a state that hasn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate in more than a quarter-century but where polls show a tight race.

The final week of the campaign is colliding with deepening concerns about a public health crisis in the U.S. Trump is eager for voters to focus on almost anything else, worried that he will lose if the election becomes a referendum on his handling of the pandemic. Biden is working to ensure the race is just that, hitting Trump on the virus and presenting himself as a safer, more stable alternative.

The stakes were clear this weekend as the White House became the locus for a second outbreak of the virus in a month. Several close aides to Vice President Mike Pence tested positive for the virus, including his chief of staff, Marc Short. Pence, though, was insistent on maintaining his aggressive political calendar, even though he was deemed a "close contact" of his adviser, claiming the privileges of being an "essential employee."

The latest outbreak has served as a potent metaphor for the divergent approaches the Trump and Biden campaigns have taken to the virus. On Sunday, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said that "we're not going to control the pandemic" and the focus should be on containment and treatment. Trump aims to pack thousands of people, most without face coverings, across some of the upper Midwestern states bearing the brunt of the surge.

"We want normal life to resume," Trump said Sunday. "We just want normal life."

Meadows, pressed to explain why the pandemic cannot be reined in, said, "Because it is a contagious virus just like the flu." He told CNN's "State of the Union" that the government was focused on getting effective therapeutics and vaccines to market.

Biden, in a statement, said Meadows' comments continued with the Trump administration waving "the white flag of defeat" in the face of the virus.

Biden's team argues the coronavirus is likely to blot out any other issues that might come up in the final days of the campaign — including Biden's recent debate-stage comment in which he affirmed he'd transition away from oil, later walked back as a transition away from federal subsidies. That strategy appeared to pay off as the outbreak in Pence's staff refocused the national conversation once again on the pandemic.

Trump and his team, meanwhile, have struggled to settle on a closing message, with the undisciplined candidate increasingly trusting his gut over his advisers. He's grasped for dirt on his Democratic rival and used apocalyptic terms to describe a Biden presidency, but Biden has thus far proven more resilient to such attacks than Trump's 2016 rival.

"You can certainly expect that (Biden) will focus on COVID as it continues to, unfortunately, rise all across the country," Biden deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in an interview. "It's it is disrupting people's lives and people are looking for a leader to put in place plans to get it under control."

With more than a third of the expected ballots in the election already cast, it may become increasingly challenging for Trump and Biden to reshape the contours of the race. Biden is leading Trump in most national polls and has an advantage, though narrower, in many key battlegrounds.

Biden is also sitting on more campaign cash than Trump and is putting it to use, blanketing airwaves with a nearly 2-to-1 advantage over the final two weeks. The incessant campaign ads from Biden feature a mix of his aspirational message with stinging critiques of Trump's handling of the pandemic.

It's part of what Josh Schwerin, the senior strategist for Democratic super PAC Priorities USA, says has helped Biden gain an advantage.

"Those dual messages — continuing to draw a contrast with Trump, but also offering that positive aspirational message, giving people a reason to vote for Biden and not just against Trump — continues to be the best way forward. And we're seeing it work," he said.

Indeed, Biden has seen his favorability ratings steadily rise over the course of the campaign, despite a barrage of attacks from Republicans, while Trump remains underwater in such polls. Democrats have been heartened, too, by their lead in the record numbers of early votes that have been cast across a number of battleground states — though they caution that Republicans are more likely to turn out on Election Day and certain to make up ground.

Still, multiple Democrats described the "2016 PTSD" that's keeping them up at night a week out from

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 29 of 77

Election Day. In 2016, Hillary Clinton also enjoyed a lead in national and some state polls, and Democrats say their complacency then doomed their candidate. Now, with the pandemic and record numbers of mail and absentee ballots injecting a greater level of uncertainty into the election, Democrats are reluctant to let their guard down.

Biden's campaign will focus in the final week on turning out what they've dubbed the "Biden coalition" — Black and Latino voters, as well as suburban, college-educated whites, women and older voters disaffected by Trump.

"What we see consistently is there aren't a whole lot of undecided voters left, and at this stage of the race it's really about turnout. It's about educating voters to make sure they know how to vote, and it's about making sure that that they turn out," Bedingfield said.

Biden's campaign has emphasized the need for Democrats to stay engaged even as the polls seem to favor their candidate. In a recent memo, Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said that "in a number of critical states we are functionally tied," and warned supporters that "every indication we have shows that this thing is going to come down to the wire."

Bedingfield says that's a message the campaign will continue to push through Nov. 3.

"One thing that we have been very vocal about is that we do believe the race is tighter than a lot of the public polling would suggest," she said. "We are constantly working to ensure that that people understand that there is an urgency here, and that we can't get complacent."

Jaffe reported from Wilmington, Delaware. Associated Press writers Amer Madhani and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

## Airstrike in northwestern Syria kills over 50 rebel fighters

BEIRUT (AP) — An airstrike on a rebel training camp in northwestern Syria on Monday killed more than 50 fighters and wounded nearly as many, a Syrian opposition spokesman and a war monitor said.

The airstrike in the northwestern part of Idlib province, the last rebel enclave in Syria, targeted a military training camp for Failaq al-Sham, one of the largest Turkey-backed opposition groups in Syria, said Youssef Hammoud, a spokesman for the groups.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria, said the strike killed 56 fighters and wounded nearly 50. Rescue missions are still underway, the Observatory said. It said it also suspected the airstrike was carried out by Russia, which is a close ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad in the country's civil war.

Leaders of the camp were among those killed in airstrike in Jabal al-Dweila, according to Hammoud.

Turkey and Russia had brokered a truce in Idlib earlier this year to halt a government offensive that displaced hundreds of thousands. But the truce remained shaky.

Turkey has long supported Syrian rebel forces in Syria. Russia has negotiated with Ankara to deploy observation teams in the rebel enclave to monitor the truce.

## Election 2020 Today: Early voting, White House outbreak

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's what's happening Monday in Election 2020, eight days until Election Day:

ON THE TRAIL: President Donald Trump plans to intensify an already breakneck travel schedule in the final full week of the presidential campaign, overlooking a surge of coronavirus cases in the U.S. and a fresh outbreak in his own White House. Democrat Joe Biden also plans to pick up his travel schedule, aiming to hit the half-dozen battleground states the campaign sees as key to his chances.

HOW TO VOTE: AP's state-by-state interactive has details on how to vote in this election.

TODAY'S TOP STORIES:

EARLY VOTE: More people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 30 of 77

or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states has caused a surge in turnout in recent days. The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic.

**WHITE HOUSE OUTBREAK:** The coronavirus has reached the upper echelons of the White House again, with an outbreak among aides to Vice President Mike Pence just over a week from Election Day. Officials scoffed at the notion of Pence dialing back in-person campaigning despite positive tests among several people in his office.

**BALLOT BOX FIRE:** Massachusetts election officials say a fire was set in a Boston ballot drop box holding more than 120 ballots in what appears to have been a "deliberate attack." The fire that was set around 4 a.m. Sunday in a ballot drop box outside the Boston Public Library downtown, Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin's office said.

**QUOTABLE:**

"We stand in line to buy tickets to concerts, we stand in line to buy tickets to sporting events, we stand in line to go to the movies. Standing in line to vote is not a problem." —Brian Warner, one of hundreds of masked people who stood in long lines at the six polling places in Albany County, New York, on Saturday.

**ICYMI:**

New Yorkers line up for hours in 2nd day of early voting

Illinois woman, 99, has voted every election since 1944

Eyes turn to Texas as early voting surge surpasses 2016

## Early vote total exceeds 2016; GOP chips at Dems' advantage

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and ANGELIKI KASTANIS Associated Press

With eight days before Election Day, more people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states led to a surge in turnout in recent days.

The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic.

The result is a total of 58.6 million ballots cast so far, more than the 58 million that The Associated Press logged as being cast through the mail or at in-person early voting sites in 2016.

Democrats have continued to dominate the initial balloting, but Republicans are narrowing the gap. GOP voters have begun to show up at early in-person voting, a sign that many heeded President Donald Trump's unfounded warnings about mail-voting fraud.

On Oct. 15, Democrats registrants cast 51% of all ballots reported, compared with 25% from Republicans. On Sunday, Democrats had a slightly smaller lead, 51% to 31%.

The early vote totals, reported by state and local election officials and tracked by the AP, are an imperfect indicator of which party may be leading. The data only shows party registration, not which candidate voters support. Most GOP voters are expected to vote on Election Day.

Analysts said the still sizable Democratic turnout puts extra pressure on the Republican Party to push its voters out in the final week and on Nov. 3. That's especially clear in closely contested states such as Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

"This is a glass half-full, glass half-empty situation," said John Couvillon, a Republican pollster who tracks early voting closely. "They're showing up more," he added, but "Republicans need to rapidly narrow that gap."

In Florida, for example, Democrats have outvoted Republicans by a 596,000 margin by mail, while Republicans only have a 230,000 edge in person. In Nevada, where Democrats usually dominate in-person early voting but the state decided to send a mail ballot to every voter this year, the GOP has a 42,600 voter edge in-person while Democrats have an 97,500 advantage in mail ballots.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 31 of 77

"At some point, Republicans have to vote," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who tracks early voting on ElectProject.org. "You can't force everyone through a vote center on Election Day. Are you going to expect all those Republicans to stand in line for eight hours?"

Campaigns typically push their voters to cast ballots early so they can focus scarce resources chasing more marginal voters as the days tick down to Election Day. That usually saves them money on mailers and digital ads — something the cash-strapped Trump campaign would likely want — and minimizes the impact of late surprises that could change the race.

Trump's campaign has been pushing its voters to cast ballots early, but with limited success, delighting Democrats. "We see the Trump campaign, the RNC (Republican National Committee) and their state parties urging Trump's supporters to vote by mail while the president's Twitter account says it's a fraud," Tom Bonier, a Democratic data analyst, said on a recent call with reporters. "The Twitter account is going to win every time."

But Bonier warned that he does not expect a one-sided election. "There are signs of Republicans being engaged," he said. "We do expect them to come out in very high numbers on Election Day."

That split in voting behavior — Democrats voting early, Republicans on Election Day — has led some Democrats to worry about Trump declaring victory because early votes are counted last in Rust Belt battlegrounds. But they're counted swiftly in swing states such as Arizona, Florida and North Carolina, which may balance out which party seems ahead on election night.

Some of the record-setting turnout has led to long lines at early-vote locations, and there have been occasional examples of voters receiving mail ballots that are incorrectly formatted. But on a whole, voting has gone relatively smoothly. With more than one-third of the 150 million ballots that experts predict will be cast in the election, there have been no armed confrontations at polling places or massive disenfranchisement that have worried election experts for months.

One sign of enthusiasm is the large number of new or infrequent voters who have already voted — 25% of the total cast, according to an AP analysis of data from the political data firm L2. Those voters are younger than a typical voter and less likely to be white. So far similar shares of them are registering Democratic and Republican.

They have helped contribute to enormous turnouts in states such as Georgia, where 26.3% of the people who've voted are new or infrequent voters, and Texas, which is expected to set turnout record and where 30.5% are new or infrequent voters.

The strong share of new and infrequent voters in the early vote is part of what leads analysts to predict more than 150 million total votes will be cast and possibly the highest turnout in a U.S. presidential election since 1908.

"There's a huge chunk of voters who didn't cast ballots in 2016," Bonier said. "They're the best sign of intensity at this point."

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/>.

This story has been corrected to show it's eight days, not nine days, before Election Day.

## Democrats ask Pence to skip Barrett vote over COVID-19 risk

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A deeply torn Senate is set to confirm Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, but Democratic leaders are asking Vice President Mike Pence to stay away from presiding over Monday's session due to potential health risks after his aides tested positive for COVID-19.

Barrett's confirmation is not in doubt, as Senate Republicans are overpowering Democratic opposition to secure President Donald Trump's nominee the week before Election Day. Pence has not said if he plans to attend as is customary for landmark votes.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 32 of 77

But Democrats said in a letter to Pence on it's "not a risk worth taking," according to copy obtained by The Associated Press.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and his leadership team wrote that not only would Pence's presence violate Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, "it also be a violation of common decency and courtesy."

Under the Constitution, the vice president serves as the largely ceremonial role of Senate president and can break a tie vote. Pence's vote isn't expected to be needed. Senate Republicans control the chamber and steered their majority to seize the opportunity to install a third Trump justice, securing a conservative court majority for the foreseeable future.

"Nothing about your presence in the Senate tomorrow can be considered essential," the Democrats wrote. They warned of the risk not just to senators but the police, restaurant workers and others who keep the Capitol running.

The 48-year-old appellate judge's rise opens up a potential new era of rulings on abortion, gay marriage and the Affordable Care Act. A case against the Obama-era health law is scheduled to be heard Nov. 10.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell scoffed at the "apocalyptic" warnings from critics that the judicial branch was becoming mired in partisan politics as he defended its transformation under his watch.

"This is something to be really proud of and feel good about," the Republican leader said Sunday during a rare weekend session.

McConnell said that unlike legislative actions that can be undone by new presidents or lawmakers, "they won't be able to do much about this for a long time to come."

Pence would typically preside over Monday's vote, but after a close aide and others on his staff tested positive for the coronavirus, it was unclear whether he would attend. He is scheduled to hold a campaign rally in Minnesota, arriving back in Washington ahead of the expected evening vote.

Schumer, of New York, said the Trump administration's drive to install Barrett during the coronavirus crisis shows "the Republican Party is willing to ignore the pandemic in order to rush this nominee forward."

To underscore the potential health risks, Schumer urged his colleagues Sunday not to linger in the chamber but "cast your votes quickly and from a safe distance." Some GOP senators tested positive for the coronavirus following a Rose Garden event with Trump to announce Barrett's nomination, but they have since said they have been cleared by their doctors from quarantine.

The confirmation was expected to be the first of a Supreme Court nominee so close to a presidential election. It's also one of the first high court nominees in recent memory receiving no support from the minority party, a pivot from not long ago when a president's picks often won wide support.

Barrett presented herself in public testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee as a neutral arbiter and suggested, "It's not the law of Amy." But her writings against abortion and a ruling on "Obamacare" show a deeply conservative thinker. She was expected to be seated quickly on the high court.

"She's a conservative woman who embraces her faith. She's unabashedly pro-life, but she's not going to apply 'the law of Amy' to all of us," the Judiciary Committee chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said on Fox News Channel.

At the start of Trump's presidency, McConnell engineered a Senate rules change to allow confirmation by a majority of the 100 senators, rather than the 60-vote threshold traditionally needed to advance high court nominees over objections. It was escalation of a rules change Democrats put in place to advance other court and administrative nominees under President Barack Obama.

On Sunday, the Senate voted 51-48 to begin to bring the process to a vote by launching the final 30 hours of Senate debate. Two Republicans, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, voted against advancing the nominee, and all Democrats who voted were opposed. California Sen. Kamala Harris, the vice presidential nominee, missed the vote while campaigning in Michigan.

Monday's final tally was expected to grow by one after Murkowski announced her support for the nominee, even as she decried filling the seat in the midst of a heated race for the White House. Murkowski said Saturday she would vote against the procedural steps but ultimately join GOP colleagues in confirm-



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 33 of 77

ing Barrett.

"While I oppose the process that has led us to this point, I do not hold it against her," Murkowski said. Collins, who faces a tight reelection fight in Maine, remains the only Republican expected to vote against Trump's nominee. "My vote does not reflect any conclusion that I have reached about Judge Barrett's qualifications to serve," Collins said. "I do not think it is fair nor consistent to have a Senate confirmation vote prior to the election."

By pushing for Barrett's ascension so close to the Nov. 3 election, Trump and his Republican allies are counting on a campaign boost, in much the way they believe McConnell's refusal to allow the Senate to consider Obama's nominee in February 2016 created excitement for Trump among conservatives and evangelical Christians eager for a Republican president to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Barrett was a professor at Notre Dame Law School when she was tapped by Trump in 2017 for an appeals court opening. Two Democrats joined at that time to confirm her, but none is expected to vote for her now.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington, Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, and Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska, contributed to this report.

## House already won? Pelosi thinks so, and reaches for more

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Nancy Pelosi once predicted she'd have the House majority won by November — of 2019.

Now, days before the Nov. 3 election, she seems to have done it.

With control of the House hardly contested, Pelosi is expanding her reach to fortify Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and win extra House seats in case Congress is called on to resolve any Electoral College dispute with President Donald Trump.

Pelosi said she feels so confident Democrats will keep the House this election, she's already preparing to win the next one in 2022.

"This year, I'm trying to win it two years in advance — by being so substantial in this election that as soon as we start into the next year, people will see our strength," Pelosi told The Associated Press in an interview.

"We intend to hold the House and grow our numbers," she said about the election Nov. 3, and "contribute to winning the Senate and the presidency."

It's a stunning turnaround for the speaker, who just two years ago was being challenged for her job leading House Democrats. Pelosi rose as the face of party, the House impeached the president and emboldened Democrats are on the march to pick up House seats deep into Trump country.

Democrats are working to reelect some 40 House freshmen elected in the 2018 midterm to win the majority, most of them from districts Trump won in 2016. They're digging deeper for additional seats in historically out-of-reach Republican strongholds including Nebraska, Indiana and even Alaska and Montana, where winners could tip the balance in an Electoral College dispute.

To wrest control, Republicans need to gain some 20 seats, but even the House GOP leadership has downplayed their chances. Strategists say Trump is a drag at the top of the GOP ticket. Even though Republicans recruited more female and minority candidates to compete with Democrats in suburban swing districts, the battle for the House is something of an afterthought in the marquee contests for control of the White House and the Senate.

"A rising tide lifts all boats, and right now it seems a Democratic tide is rising," said Michael Steel, a Republican strategist and former top aide to House GOP leadership.

Steel said it has less to do with Pelosi's planning than the national political environment. "I attribute the presumed success of her efforts to keep the majority more to Trump's failures than to her stated leadership," he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 34 of 77

Those close to Pelosi's political operation did not always join her prediction that Democrats would handily keep control.

Trump wasn't on the ballot when they picked up the majority two years ago, and freshmen are often the most vulnerable to defeat as they seek reelection, especially this class of lawmakers now having to run alongside the president in districts often off-limits to Democrats.

Pelosi pushed ahead with the risky House vote to impeach the president in late 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine only to see the Senate, controlled by Republicans, vote to acquit him of the charges in a highly charged political environment early this year.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the Capitol abruptly shuttered. Pelosi engineered a rules change to allow the House to vote by proxy and work online, but it left lawmakers largely away from Washington. Now Pelosi is holding out for a robust COVID-19 aid package with the Trump administration, another risky move, seeking a \$2 trillion-plus deal Republicans don't want to give.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill, who is the chairwoman of the party's campaign arm in the House, said she counseled the new lawmakers not to get swept up in the national political debate but "run your race like you're running for mayor" — meeting with constituents and responding to issues close to home.

"When we set out to do this work in 2019 we had no idea what this cycle would hold," said Lucina Guinn, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's executive director.

The goal, she said, was to make the incumbents "as strong as possible" while also recruiting new candidates "to set up a big battlefield."

Money helps. Pelosi is on track to be a \$1 billion fundraiser for her party — an eye-popping sum during nearly two decades in leadership.

This election cycle she raised \$227.9 million for Democrats — most of it for the House campaign arm — but she also shoveled \$4 million for Biden from an August event and sent nearly \$5 million to the state parties.

"We are ready," Pelosi said.

She said she believes Democrats would sweep if the election were today, but it's still a week out. "It doesn't keep me up from the standpoint of worrying about it," she said, "but it does get me up early to do something about it."

It's another surprising turn that the Affordable Care Act, which helped cost Pelosi her House majority in the 2010 election after Democrats passed "Obamacare," is now a political calling card being used to win over Trump voters during the COVID-19 crisis.

Voters have come to rely on the health care law's guarantees that those with preexisting health conditions can access insurance and parents can keep their adult children on family policies. A decade after President Barack Obama signed the ACA into law, Republicans are still trying to undo it, including in a court case heading to the Supreme Court a week after the election.

"Progressive ideas are actually popular, not just with progressives but also with moderate voters, with independent voters and maybe even with some Republican voters," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a co-chair of the progressive caucus.

As Pelosi, of California, becomes an even more public presence for the party, Republicans run countless campaign ads against her. But she also has a following from those celebrating her high-profile standoffs with Trump. Since the spring COVID-19 crisis, she has appeared 20 times on the Sunday morning news shows and done more than 150 national television and radio interviews, her office said.

"I would not miss any opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, to make sure that there's clarity on where we're coming from on some of these issues," she said.

She plans to run again for speaker, if Democrats keep control of the House: "Definitely."

But that's for later. Pelosi notes experts have suggested Democrats will pick up between five and 15 House seats.

"Our goal originally was to hold the House," she said. "Everything we get after that will just be a further enhancement."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 35 of 77

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/>.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan accuse each other of truce violations

By AVET DEMOURIAN Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan on Monday accused each other of violating the new cease-fire announced the day before in a bid to halt the fighting over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh that has killed hundreds, and possibly thousands, in just four weeks.

The truce that took effect Monday morning was agreed upon on Sunday after talks facilitated by the United States. It was a third attempt to establish a lasting cease-fire in the flare-up of a decades-old conflict. Two previous Russia-brokered cease-fires, including one last weekend, frayed immediately after taking force, with both sides blaming each other for violations.

The new cease-fire was also challenged quickly by accusations from both sides. Azerbaijani Defense Ministry alleged that Armenian forces fired at Azerbaijani settlements and the positions of the Azerbaijani army "along the entire front, as well as on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border" using various small arms, mortars and howitzers.

Armenian military officials rejected the accusations and in turn accused Azerbaijani forces of shelling the northeastern area of Nagorno-Karabakh and other areas. Separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh also charged that Azerbaijan targeted the town of Martuni with military aviation.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry called claims about their use of military aviation "misinformation" and insisted that Azerbaijan was adhering to the cease-fire agreement.

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

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 974 of their troops and 37 civilians have been killed in the clashes so far. Azerbaijani authorities haven't disclosed their military losses, but say the fighting has killed 65 civilians and wounded 300.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that according to Moscow's information, the death toll from the fighting was nearing 5,000, significantly higher than what both sides report.

The new cease-fire deal brokered by the U.S. came out of "intensive negotiations" Washington facilitated over the weekend among the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and co-chairs of the Minsk Group, set up by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the 1990s to mediate the conflict.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Monday appeared optimistic about the new truce, despite the accusations from both sides.

"Despite several provocations, the ceasefire is generally being maintained. The Armenian side will continue to strictly adhere to the ceasefire regime," Pashinian said in a Facebook post.

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

## Zeta likely hurricane before hitting Yucatan, heading for US

MIAMI (AP) — A strengthening Tropical Storm Zeta is expected to become a hurricane Monday as it heads toward the eastern end of Mexico's resort-dotted Yucatan Peninsula and then likely move on for a possible landfall on the central U.S. Gulf Coast at midweek.

Zeta on Sunday became the earliest ever 27th named storm of the Atlantic season. The system was centered about 210 miles (340 kilometers) southeast of Cozumel island Monday morning, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph).

The storm was moving northwest at around 9 mph (15 kph) after being nearly stationary over the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 36 of 77

weekend. Forecasters said Zeta was expected to move over the Yucatan Peninsula later Monday before heading into the Gulf of Mexico and then approaching the U.S. Gulf Coast by Wednesday, though it could weaken by then.

Officials in Quintana Roo state, the location of Cancun and other resorts, said they were watching the storm. They reported nearly 60,000 tourists in the state as of midweek. The state government said 71 shelters were being readied for tourists or residents who might need them.

The government is still handing out aid, including sheet roofing, to Yucatan residents hit by Hurricane Delta and Tropical Storm Gamma earlier this month.

A hurricane warning was expanded for the Yucatan Peninsula from Tulum to Dzilam, including Cancun and Cozumel.

Zeta had been dawdling Sunday because it was trapped between two strong high pressure systems to the east and west, and it could not move north or south because nothing was moving there either, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami.

Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said that when a storm gets stuck, it can unload dangerous downpours over one place, causing flooding. That happened in 2017 over Houston with Harvey, when more than 60 inches (150 centimeters) of rain fell and in 2019 over the Bahamas with Category 5 Hurricane Dorian, which was the worst-case scenario of a stationary storm, he said.

The hurricane center said Zeta could bring 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain to Mexico, the Cayman Islands and parts of Cuba, before drenching the central U.S. Gulf Coast.

The storm could make landfall anywhere from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, forecasters said.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards urged his state's citizens to monitor the storm, and the state activated its Crisis Action Team.

Zeta broke the record for the previous earliest 27th Atlantic named storm that formed Nov. 29, 2005, Klotzbach said.

This year's season has so many storms that the hurricane center has turned to the Greek alphabet after running out of official names.

Zeta is the furthest into the Greek alphabet the Atlantic season has gone. There was also a Tropical Storm Zeta in 2005, but that year had 28 storms because meteorologists later went back and found they missed one, which then became an "unnamed named storm," Klotzbach said.

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AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Md., contributed to this report.

## Philippines: Typhoon leaves 13 missing, displaces thousands

By AARON FAVILA Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A fast-moving typhoon blew away from the Philippines on Monday after leaving at least 13 people missing, forcing thousands of villagers to flee to safety and flooding rural villages, disaster-response officials said.

The 13 people missing from Typhoon Molave included a dozen fishermen who ventured out to sea over the weekend despite a no-sail restriction due to very rough seas. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The typhoon was blowing west toward the South China Sea with sustained winds of 125 kilometers (77 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph). It roared overnight through island provinces south of the capital, Manila, which was lashed by strong winds but escaped major damage.

At least 25,000 villagers were displaced, with about 20,000 taking shelter in schools and government buildings that were turned into evacuation centers, the Office of Civil Defense said, but officials added that some have returned home in regions where the weather has cleared.

"Villagers are now asking to be rescued because of the sudden wind which blew away roofs," Humerlito Dolor, governor of Oriental Mindoro province, told DZMM radio.

Dolor said pounding rains overnight swamped farming villages in his province then fierce winds toppled

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 37 of 77

trees and power posts early on Monday, knocking out power. Authorities were clearing roads of fallen trees and debris in some towns after the typhoon passed, he said.

In the eastern province of Catanduanes, the 12 fishermen were reported missing after they failed to return home from a weekend fishing expedition, officials said.

A yacht sank off Batangas province, south of Manila, and the coast guard said it managed to rescue seven crewmen but was still searching for another crewmember.

A passenger and cargo vessel also ran aground on Bonito island off Batangas as the region was pounded by fierce wind and rain early Monday. The coast guard said its personnel were on the way to the island to pick up five crewmembers and tow the vessel back to coast.

More than 1,800 cargo truck drivers, workers and passengers were stranded in ports after the coast guard barred ships and ferry boats from venturing into rough seas, officials said. Some of the ports were later reopened as the weather cleared.

About 20 typhoons and storms annually batter the Philippines, and the Southeast Asian archipelago is seismically active, with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

## Kershaw stops steal of home, hands Dodgers 3-2 Series lead

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — As much as Clayton Kershaw has dominated hitters throughout a glittering career, he has not silenced those who cite his lack of baseball's ultimate accomplishment.

With a gritty performance, plus one particular delivery home that will long be remembered, he hushed the skeptics and moved the Los Angeles Dodgers within a victory of their first World Series title since 1988.

"He's a phenomenal pitcher on the biggest stage," reliever Blake Treinen said after Kershaw beat the Tampa Bay Rays for the second time in six days, a 4-2 win Sunday night that gave the Dodgers a 3-2 Series lead. "I think a lot of credit goes to what he's been able to do in this World Series for us."

Kershaw even prevented the Rays from stealing the tying run.

Los Angeles was clinging to a one-run lead with runners at the corners and two outs in the fourth inning, and Kevin Kiermaier at the plate.

The great left-hander had raised both hands over his head in his instantly recognizable stretch position when he heard first baseman Max Muncy scream: "Step off! Step off! Step off!"

"Instinctually, I kind of did it," Kershaw recalled.

He coolly and quickly backed off the rubber and calmly threw to catcher Austin Barnes, who grabbed the ball and got his mitt down on Manuel Margot's outstretched hand while the runner's helmet tumbled off and cut his own lip.

Tampa Bay rarely threatened again.

Kershaw's formidable resume has lacked two of the most satisfying achievements: a win deep in the World Series and a championship ring. He has one and lifted himself and his team to the verge of the second.

Mookie Betts and Corey Seager sparked a two-run first inning, and Joc Pederson and Muncy homered off long-ball prone Tyler Glasnow, whose 100 mph heat got burned.

His scraggly dark brown hair dangling with sweat, Kershaw was cruising when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts removed the 32-year-old in favor of right-handed reliever Dustin May after getting two outs on two pitches in the sixth inning.

The mostly pro-Dodgers fans in the pandemic-reduced crowd of 11,437 booed when Roberts walked to the mound, well aware of what happened with the bullpen the previous night, when closer Kenley Jansen wasted a ninth-inning lead in a stunning 8-7 loss.

No matter that some LA players tried to convince Roberts to leave in Kershaw, he was gone.

"Fans, players get caught up in emotion, and I'm emotional, but I still have to have clarity on making decisions," Roberts said. "I can't get caught up in fans' reactions."

Those boos quickly turned to cheers as the Los Angeles rooters saluted Kershaw, a three-time NL Cy

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 38 of 77

Young Award winner, as he walked to the dugout. Kershaw improved to 13-12 in postseason play, including 4-1 this year.

May, Victor Gonzalez and Treinen combined for two-hit scoreless relief. May got five outs, and Gonzalez stranded a pair of runners in the eighth by retiring Randy Arozarena and Brandon Lowe on flyouts.

"It's way more stressful watching than pitching," Kershaw said.

He has been joined in the postseason bubble environment by wife Ellen, 5-year-old daughter Cali, nearly 4 Charley and 9-month-old Cooper, making this October run most memorable.

"Any dad just wants their kids to be proud of them," Kershaw said. "Cali told me she was tonight, so I'll take that for sure."

The Kershaws make their offseason home in the Dallas area.

"Last minute we were able to get a few extra nosebleed seats, my wife said, so we got to bring an extra 10 or so people here," Kershaw said. "Don't want to say it's working out the way that I wanted it to just because being at Dodger Stadium would be awesome, too, but to get that family and friends here, to get to have as packed house as it can be and basically it seems like it's all Dodger fans, is very special."

Treinen got three straight outs after Margot's single leading off the ninth, becoming the fourth Dodgers pitcher with a postseason save.

"Kersh, a lot of credit goes to him for what we've been able to do in this World Series," Treinen said. "There's a tough narrative on him. He's a phenomenal pitcher on the biggest stage."

Thirty of the previous 46 teams to win Game 5 for a 3-2 lead have won the title, but just six of the last 14. Teams that wasted 3-2 leads include last year's Houston Astros.

Tony Gonsolin will start for the Dodgers on Tuesday, when Game 2 starter Blake Snell pitches for Tampa Bay.

This is the first time since 1997 that teams have alternated wins in the first five games.

With a 175-76 regular-season record, five ERA titles and an MVP, Kershaw ranks alongside Dodgers greats Sandy Koufax, Fernando Valenzuela and Orel Hershiser. He won World Series openers in 2017 and again this year, but he faltered in Game 5 in both 2017 and 2018 and has never won a title.

Kershaw shut down the Rays on two runs and five hits with six strikeouts and two walks. He is 2-0 with a 2.31 ERA in 15 2/3 innings over two starts in this Series with 14 strikeouts and three walks. Kershaw also set a career postseason record with 207 strikeouts, two more than Justin Verlander's previous mark.

Provided a 3-0 lead, Kershaw allowed Tampa Bay to pull within a run in the third when Kiermaier singled, Yandy Díaz tripled on a ball down the right-field line that skipped past Betts and Arozarena singled. The 25-year-old Cuban rookie asked for the ball after his record 27th postseason hit, one more than San Francisco's Pablo Sandoval in 2014.

"I didn't have my stuff like I did in Game 1," Kershaw said. "My slider wasn't there as good as it was, so fortunate to get through there."

Kershaw escaped in the fourth after Margot walked leading off, stole second and continued to third when the ball got away from second baseman Chris Taylor for his second big error in two games. Hunter Renfroe also walked, but Joey Wendle popped out and Willy Adames struck out.

Margot went on his own, thinking the Dodgers weren't paying close attention, and became the first runner caught stealing home in the Series since Minnesota's Shane Mack in Game 4 in 1991.

"I thought I was really close," Margot said through a translator.

Glasnow allowed four runs and six hits in five innings, leaving him 0-2 with a 9.64 ERA in the Series. He sets records with nine postseason homers allowed and three wild pitches in a Series game, tying a mark with two wild pitches in an inning.

"It's definitely not my greatest month of baseball, that's for sure," Glasnow said.

UP NEXT

Gonsolin allowed Lowe's first-inning homer in Game 2 and left after 1 1/3 innings. Snell allowed two runs and two hits in 4 2/3 innings in Game 2.

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

## Wary of angering public, Iran has few ways to contain virus

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As coronavirus infections reached new heights in Iran this month, overwhelming its hospitals and driving up its death toll, the country's health minister gave a rare speech criticizing his own government's refusal to enforce basic health measures.

"We asked for fines to be collected from anyone who doesn't wear a mask," Saeed Namaki said last week, referring to the government's new mandate for Tehran, the capital. "But go and find out how many people were fined. We said close roads, and yet how many did they close?"

Namaki's speech, lamenting the country's "great suffering" and "hospitals full of patients," clearly laid the blame for the virus' resurgence at the government's door — a stark contrast to the usual speeches from officials who point the finger at the public's defiance of restrictions.

But one day later, the minister had a vastly different message.

"We should not cause panic for people in vain," Namaki said in a speech carried by the semi-official ISNA news agency. "We should never announce that we don't have empty (hospital) beds. We do have empty beds."

The rhetorical about-face is typical of Iranian leaders' inconsistent response to the pandemic that many see as helping to fuel the virus' spread. Experts say the mixed messages reflect the fact that the leadership has little room to impose severe restrictions that would damage an already fragile economy — and thus stoke public anger.

"The country is already under such pressure, and Iranians are already policed," said Sanam Vakil, a researcher on Iran at Chatham House, a London-based policy institute. "If they can't provide economic resources to help people, to then be overly authoritarian and enforce health measures would undermine their legitimacy even further."

More than 32,000 people reportedly have died in what is the Middle East's worst outbreak — and a top health official stressed recently that the true number is likely 2½ times higher.

And it shows no signs of abating. In the last week, Iran shattered its single-day death toll record twice and reported daily infection highs three times.

In a sign that tensions over the government's haphazard response are coming to a head, even the country's supreme leader took aim at authorities on Saturday. He demanded for the first time they prioritize public health over "the security and economic aspects" of the pandemic, without elaborating.

"When the Health Ministry determines restrictions, all agencies must observe and enforce them without taking into account other considerations," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared.

For months, even as officials have issued increasingly grim warnings, the government has resisted a nationwide lockdown that would undermine an economy reeling from severe U.S. sanctions, re-imposed in 2018 after the Trump administration withdrew from the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Despite appeals from the United Nations and rights groups that sanctions be eased during the pandemic, America slapped new ones on Iranian banks this month.

The rial plunged to new lows against the dollar, erasing people's life savings. Millions of workers in informal sectors face the choice between staying home to avoid the virus or feeding their families.

And Iranian authorities have given them no clear guidance. When the virus first struck in February, international experts accused Iran of covering up the crisis. The government, desperately seeking to defuse public anger and boost its legitimacy after its crackdown on nationwide economic protests and the downing of a Ukrainian passenger plane over Tehran, urged people to turn out for a parliamentary vote and to celebrate the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Only in late March — with infections skyrocketing — did Iran impose a two-week shutdown of offices and nonessential businesses. Yet even then, during Nowruz, the Persian New Year and the country's biggest holiday, Iranians defied travel bans to visit family or head to the coast. A widely watched video on Instagram at the time showed angry drivers attacking and yelling insults at police officers who tried to

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 40 of 77

close the roads in northern Iran. In response, the police retreated and let them go.

When the country reopened in April, infections surged again. As the nation's death toll soared this month, authorities scrambled to impose a raft of public health measures: shutdowns of recently reopened universities and schools in Tehran, travel bans to and from five major cities, a compulsory mask rule in the capital, home to 10 million people. The deputy health minister last week promised that police would finally "start dealing more seriously with fines" for those who disobey the rules.

But the risk is that if impoverished citizens are fined for failing to wear masks, or middle-class Tehranis are barred from escaping to vacation spots on the northern Caspian coast, public outrage over Iran's other grievances, including economic distress and international isolation, could boil over.

Angry street demonstrations already have challenged the government this year. Hard-line lawmakers have demanded that President Hassan Rouhani resign, with one of them, Mojtaba Zolnouri, who heads parliament's influential committee for national security and foreign policy, even publicly calling for his "hanging a thousand times until people's hearts are satisfied."

Rouhani is facing pressure from all sides. While medical officials on state TV clamor for a prolonged and centralized shutdown, powerful clerics have called for mass gatherings to mark Shiite holidays, such as Ashoura, saying those who get sick pay the price to keep the holiday "alive."

"Rouhani's hands are tied domestically," said Vakil, adding that Iran's leadership, aware that escaping U.S. sanctions is the only way to rescue its economy, is closely watching the U.S. presidential election next month.

In the meantime, authorities are at a loss for how to respond to the pandemic, according to the country's own health minister.

"I saw on the street three or four days ago that 40% of passengers on a bus didn't wear masks," said Namaki in his first speech last week. "People gather and make lines for free food and no one comes to disperse them. ... How can infections be controlled in this way?"

Twenty-four hours later, he was on state TV insisting that things were, in fact, under control.

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Associated Press writer Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

## Feeding Houston's hungry: 1M pounds of food daily for needy

By ANITA SNOW and JOHN L. MONE Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — In car lines that can stretch half a mile, (0.8 kilometers), workers who lost jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic and other needy people receive staggering amounts of food distributed by the Houston Food Bank. On some days, the hundreds of sites supplied by the country's largest food bank collectively get 1 million pounds.

Among the ranks of recipients is unemployed construction worker Herman Henton, whose wife is a home improvement store worker and now the sole breadwinner for their family of five. They tried to get food stamps but were told they only qualified for \$25 of federal food assistance monthly.

"As a man, as a father, as a provider I felt at a low point. I felt low," Henton said as he waited in his car near West Houston Assistance Ministries, which gets food from the Houston Food Bank for its care packages aimed at helping feed families for a week. "In this type of situation there's nothing you can really do."

Distributions by the Houston Food Bank now average about 800,000 pounds (363,000 kilograms) daily after reaching the unprecedented 1 million pound mark for the first time in the spring, a level that the organization still delivers periodically.

Before the coronavirus struck, the group's average daily distribution was 450,000 pounds (184,000 kilograms), said Houston Food Bank President Brian Greene.

Then workers in Houston and millions around the country were suddenly thrown out of work and forced to rely on the handouts.

"It had that feeling of a disaster, like the hurricanes in the Gulf," Greene recalled. "It was shocking how the lines exploded so quickly."



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 41 of 77

Almost overnight, one of America's most ethnically and racially diverse cities became a symbol of a desperate need as the food bank scrambled to take in enough milk, bread, vegetables and meat from multiple sources to feed the hungry.

Many people in Houston and around the U.S. live paycheck to paycheck and were caught off guard by the economic fallout from the coronavirus that initially cost the nation 22 million jobs, with 10.7 million that haven't come back.

"Forty percent of households have less than \$400 in order to weather a storm," Greene said, referring to a Federal Reserve survey. "So, when this crisis hit the number of families who needed assistance was immediate and very large."

After Henton was laid off, he and his wife ate one meal daily so their three children could have all three.

His family is one of about 126,500 that the Houston Food Bank has helped with boxes of food every week since March via its system powered by workers and volunteers who sort, box and pack the food onto trucks that deliver their loads to distribution centers throughout greater Houston's suburban sprawl.

Nationwide, the charitable food distribution "surge has stayed at a surge level," said Katie Fitzgerald, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Feeding America, a national network of 200 food banks.

Her group boosted the amount of food it distributes to 2 billion pounds (907 million kilograms) from April through June, up from 1.3 billion pounds (590 million kilograms) during the January-March period.

The federal government has helped meet demand with programs such as one that buys farm goods like vegetables, meat and dairy originally produced for now shuttered restaurants and gives it free to food banks and the distribution groups they work with.

But the money set aside for the U.S. Agriculture Department's multibillion-dollar Farmers to Families program runs out at the end of October.

Individual food banks also get 20% to 40% of the food they distribute from other government programs, including one that helps farmers hurt by foreign tariffs by buying their produce, beef, pork and chicken and ensuring that producers get paid while edible food doesn't end up in landfills. That program is funded so far through 2020.

The food banks get the rest of what they distribute from supermarket or farmer donations or buy it with donated cash.

Fitzgerald said the nation's food banks have enough food to meet U.S. demand for now, but said distributors "are concerned about the future" as winter approaches.

Demand for food in the Houston area, long subjected to the volatility of the oil industry, will probably continue without more government relief for jobless workers, said Mark Brown, CEO of West Houston Assistance Ministries, which gives food to nearly 2,000 people each week.

"I think we will have an elevated need in our community for at least two years," he said.

The charity was founded in 1982 to help people during an oil bust that eliminated 225,000 jobs and toppled the city's real estate market. The group also helps people pay their rent and find work.

On one recent food distribution day, many people waiting in their cars with the tailgates open so bags could be easily loaded in their vehicles in a socially distant way were reluctant to speak about their economic misfortunes or other reasons for lining up.

Unemployed stagehand Priscilla Toro said she was embarrassed at having to resort to the free food line but added: "We have to get by. We've got to eat."

Henton said he was simply thankful that he and many others can feed their families with the extra help. "It can happen to anyone," he said.

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Snow reported from Phoenix.

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On Twitter: [twitter.com/asnowreports](https://twitter.com/asnowreports), [twitter.com/JohnMone](https://twitter.com/JohnMone)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 42 of 77

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump and his familiar falsehoods

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says Mexico is paying for the wall (it isn't), health care choice for veterans came from him (it didn't) and his tax cut stands as the biggest in American history (nowhere close).

These are among his touchstones — the falsehoods that span his presidency — and he's giving them another go in the final days of his relentless campaigning.

He's got fresher false material, too, claiming "incredible" numbers in the pandemic response despite record infections, rising deaths and a statement from his chief of staff Sunday that the government cannot bring the coronavirus under control. He warned darkly of voting fraud in the Nov. 3 election without offering evidence that malfeasance is in play.

In weekend rallies, Trump also portrayed Democratic rival Joe Biden as the helmsman of a Marxist party who lined his own pockets with \$3.5 million via Moscow. This didn't happen.

A look at rhetoric from the weekend:

### THE VIRUS

TRUMP: "Even without vaccines, we're rounding the turn. It's going to be over." — on C-SPAN, Sunday.

TRUMP: "We're rounding the turn. It's going to be over." — New Hampshire rally Sunday.

TRUMP: "We're rounding the turn, we're doing great. Our numbers are incredible." — North Carolina rally Saturday.

THE FACTS: The numbers have turned harrowing, not "incredible."

The U.S. set a daily record Friday for new confirmed coronavirus infections and nearly matched it Saturday with 83,178, data published by Johns Hopkins University show. Close to 8.6 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and about 225,000 have died; both totals are the world's highest. About half the states have seen their highest daily infection numbers so far at some point in October.

"We're not going to control the pandemic," Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff, said on CNN. "We are going to control the fact that we get vaccines, therapeutics and other mitigation areas." He did not share his boss' view that the pandemic is turning a corner or that it will, absent a vaccine.

TRUMP on how long he may be immune to reinfection from the coronavirus: "With me it was for four months. If it was anybody else they'd say for life." — Ohio rally.

TRUMP: "Now it used to be that if you had it, you were immune for life, right? For life. With me, they say I'm immune for four months. In other words, once I got it, the immunity went down from life to four months. I don't know. They don't know, either." — North Carolina.

THE FACTS: The only truth in these statements is that "they don't know."

Trump is suggesting here that experts are saying he is only immune from reinfection for four months because they don't like him. But the science of immunity is not about him and the uncertainty is not a conspiracy against him. Public-health authorities don't have final answers on how long or well people who had COVID-19 are protected from it again.

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

### THE WALL

TRUMP: "And by the way, Mexico is paying for the wall." — New Hampshire rally.

TRUMP: "No, they are paying for it. Totally." — North Carolina rally.

TRUMP: "We got it financed. Mexico will be paying for it because we're going to charge a fee."

THE FACTS: The U.S. is paying for it. Mexico isn't. The Mexican government flatly refused to contribute to extending or reinforcing barriers on U.S. soil — "Not now, not ever," Enrique Peña Nieto, then Mexico's president, tweeted in May 2018.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 43 of 77

Since the start, Trump has been fishing for ways to make it appear that he was keeping his promise to make Mexico pay for the project at the core of his 2016 campaign. But the money is coming from today's U.S. taxpayers and the future ones who will inherit the federal debt.

## VETERANS

TRUMP: "We passed VA Choice." — New Hampshire rally.

TRUMP: "The last administration failed our veterans. I reformed the VA, passed VA Choice." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: He did not get the Choice program passed. President Barack Obama did. Trump expanded it. The program allows veterans to get medical care outside the Veterans Affairs system under certain conditions.

## THE BIDENS

TRUMP on Biden when he was vice president: "So Russia, the mayor of Moscow's wife, who's a very wealthy man, she's a very wealthy woman, retired, gave him three and a half million dollars." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: No she didn't.

A Republican congressional report that investigated the Moscow business dealings of Biden's son, Hunter, pointed to a \$3.5 million investment made there to an investment firm linked to Hunter Biden.

The money didn't go to Joe Biden at all. Nor is there evidence that Hunter Biden pocketed the sum. The GOP report said the money went to the investment firm. And Hunter Biden's lawyer has said in a statement that his client had no interest in that firm.

## CHINA

TRUMP: "I banned people from China, where it was heavily infected, from coming into a country. Biden was totally against that. He called me xenophobic. And now he goes out and says we should have done it sooner. Well he didn't want to do it at all." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: That's false. Trump never banned travel from China; he restricted it. Biden did not call the travel restrictions xenophobic; he used the term in regard to Trump's other rhetoric about foreigners. And he did not oppose the restrictions, but rather took no clear position for many weeks, before supporting them.

## FRACKING

BIDEN: "I never said I oppose fracking." — presidential debate Thursday.

TRUMP: "You said it in the tape." — presidential debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is correct; Biden said it on tape, telling a Democratic primary debate, "No new fracking." Trump has been playing Biden's remark at his own rallies.

A fracking ban wasn't and still isn't Biden's policy, though. Biden's campaign corrected his remark after the primary debate. Biden would ban new oil and gas permits on federal land only; most oil and gas does not come from those properties. He has said repeatedly he would not ban fracking.

Still, Trump called him out for shaping his stance to suit a more liberal primary audience and argued at his Ohio rally Saturday that Biden in office would be beholden to Democrats who want to ban fossil fuels, people he hyperbolically called "the communists, the Marxists and the left wing extremists."

## VOTING FRAUD

TRUMP: "In Nevada, they want to have a thing where you don't have to have any verification of the signature." -- New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: Not true, despite his frequent assertions to the contrary. The state's existing law requires signature checks on mail ballots. A new law also spells out a process by which election officials are to check a signature against the one in government records.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 44 of 77

In Nevada's June primary, nearly 7,000 ballots were thrown out due to mismatched or missing signatures.

TRUMP: "I say the biggest risk we have are the fake ballots." — New Hampshire rally.

TRUMP: "If we don't know the result on Nov. 3, that means — unlike it has always been where you generally find out the election that night or soon — we could be going on forever with this. It's the craziest thing ... and we shouldn't let it happen." -- New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: His statements are overblown.

It's true that many states are expecting a surge in mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic, which may lead to longer times in vote counting. The U.S. Supreme Court, for instance, will allow Pennsylvania to count mailed-in ballots received up to three days after the election. But there is no evidence to indicate that massive fraud is afoot. Any delay in declaring a winner of the presidential race after Nov. 3 would not in itself be illegal.

Broadly speaking, voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. 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 who have registered, there have been no major cases of fraud or difficulty counting the votes.

Even if the election is messy and contested in court, the country will have a president in January — and not have vote counting going on "forever" as he asserts — because the Constitution and federal law ensure it.

## AUTO INDUSTRY

TRUMP: "We brought in tremendous numbers of companies ... I said to Prime Minister Abe, a great, great gentleman who retired ... 'Shinzo, you got to open some factories in Michigan ... You're selling too many cars made in Japan, you got to make them in the U.S.' He'd say 'Well, I don't do that ... this is done by the private sector ...' I said, 'You have to do it.' The next day, they announced five companies were opening up factories." — New Hampshire rally.

THE FACTS: That's a made-up story he's told before.

No Japanese automaker assembly plants have been announced or built in Michigan, let alone in one day, and there are no plans to add any.

There is one manufacturing facility, a joint venture between General Motors and Honda, south of Detroit. It's the \$85 million expansion of an existing facility to make hydrogen fuel cells with about 100 new jobs, according to the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think-tank in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Subaru has a new research center with about 100 new jobs, and Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi and Toyota have announced expansions of research facilities.

These are not new "car plants" run by Japanese automakers and these initiatives did not all materialize in one day.

## IRAN

TRUMP: "We got off that crazy Iran deal, right? The Iran nuclear deal, where Obama gave them \$150 billion for the privilege." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: No, Obama did not give the Iranians \$150 billion for signing the multinational deal to constrain their nuclear development. The deal let Iran have access to \$150 billion of its own assets that were frozen abroad until Tehran agreed to the terms.

The U.S. made a separate payout to Iran of about \$1.8 billion. That was to settle an old debt over military equipment that Iran paid for but never received.

## TAXES

TRUMP: "You know, you got the biggest tax cut in the history of our country. I got it for you." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: His tax cuts are not close to the biggest in U.S. history.

It's a \$1.5 trillion tax cut over 10 years. As a share of the total economy, a tax cut of that size ranks 12th,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 45 of 77

according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. President Ronald Reagan's 1981 cut is the biggest, followed by the 1945 rollback of taxes that financed World War II.

Post-Reagan tax cuts also stand among the historically significant: President George W. Bush's cuts in the early 2000s and Obama's renewal of them a decade later.

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

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## Californians see power shutoffs as winds, fire danger rise

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Californians lost power as utilities sought to prevent the chance of their equipment sparking wildfires and the fire-weary state braced for a new bout of dry, windy weather.

More than 1 million people were expected to be in the dark Monday during what officials have said could be the strongest wind event in California this year.

It's the fifth time this year that Pacific Gas & Electric, the nation's largest utility, has cut power to customers in a bid to reduce the risk that downed or fouled power lines or other equipment could ignite a blaze during bone-dry weather conditions and gusty winds. On Sunday, the utility shut off power to 225,000 customers in Northern California and planned to do the same for another 136,000 customers in a total of 36 counties.

"This event is by far the largest we've experienced this year, the most extreme weather," said Aaron Johnson, the utility's vice president of wildfire safety and public engagement. "We're trying to find ways to make the events less difficult."

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for much of the state, predicting winds of up to 35 mph (56 kph) in lower elevations and more than 70 mph (113 kph) in mountainous areas of Southern California. The concern is that any spark could be blown into flames sweeping through tinder-dry brush and forestland.

The conditions could equal those during devastating fires in California's wine country in 2017 and last year's Kincadee Fire, the National Weather Service said. Fire officials said PG&E transmission lines sparked that Sonoma County fire last October, which destroyed hundreds of homes and caused nearly 100,000 people to flee.

Weather conditions shifted in Northern California on Sunday, with humidity dropping and winds picking up speed, said Scott Strenfel, senior meteorologist for PG&E. He said another round of winds is expected Monday night.

Southern California, which saw cooler temperatures and patchy drizzle over the weekend, is also bracing for extreme fire weather. Southern California Edison said it was considering safety outages for 71,000 customers in six counties starting Monday, with San Bernardino County potentially the most affected.

Los Angeles County urged residents to sign up for emergency notifications and prepare to evacuate, preferably arranging to stay with family or friends in less risky areas who aren't suspected to have the coronavirus. Local fire officials boosted staffing as a precaution.

"The reality is come midnight and through Tuesday we're going to be in the most significant red flag conditions we've had this year," said Kevin McGowan, director of the county's Office of Emergency Management.

Scientists say climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable. Traditionally October and November are the worst months for fires, but already this year the state has seen more than 8,600 wildfires that have scorched a record 6,400 square miles (16,576 square kilometers) and destroyed about 9,200 homes, businesses and other structures. There have been 31 deaths.

Many of this year's devastating fires were started by thousands of dry lightning strikes, but some remain

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 46 of 77

under investigation for potential electrical causes. While the biggest fires in California have been fully or significantly contained, more than 5,000 firefighters remain committed to 20 blazes, including a dozen major incidents, state fire officials said.

PG&E officials said the planned outages are a safety measure and understood they burden residents, especially with many working from home and their children taking classes online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sheriff Kory Honea of Butte County said he's concerned about residents in foothill communities during the blackouts because cellular service can be spotty and it's the only way many can stay informed when the power is out.

"It is quite a strain on them to have to go through these over and over and over again," he said.

Taxin reported from Orange County, California. Associated Press writer Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **New storm Zeta a hurricane threat to Mexico, US Gulf Coast**

MIAMI (AP) — Newly formed Tropical Storm Zeta gradually strengthened Sunday in the western Caribbean and forecasters said it would likely become a hurricane before hitting Mexico's resort-dotted Yucatan Peninsula and the U.S. Gulf Coast in coming days.

Zeta was the earliest named 27th Atlantic storm recorded in an already historic hurricane season.

The system was centered about 260 miles (420 kilometers) southeast of Cozumel island late Sunday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The storm was nearly stationary, though forecasters said it was likely to shear the northeastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula or westernmost Cuba by late Monday or early Tuesday and then close in on the U.S. Gulf Coast by Wednesday, but could weaken by then.

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph), and forecasters said Zeta was expected to intensify into a hurricane Monday.

Officials in Quintana Roo state, the location of Cancun and other resorts, said they were watching the storm. They reported nearly 60,000 tourists in the state as of midweek. The state government said 71 shelters were being readied for tourists or residents who might need them.

The government is still handing out aid, including sheet roofing, to Yucatan residents hit by Hurricane Delta and Tropical Storm Gamma earlier this month.

Zeta may dawdle in the western Caribbean for another day or so, trapped between two strong high pressure systems to the east and west. It can't move north or south because nothing is moving there either, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.

"It just has to sit and wait for a day or so," McNoldy said. "It just needs anything to move."

When a storm gets stuck, it can unload dangerous downpours over one place, which causes flooding when a storm is over or near land. That happened in 2017 over Houston with Harvey, when more than 60 inches (150 centimeters) of rain fell and 2019 over the Bahamas with a Category 5 Dorian, which was the worst-case scenario of a stationary storm, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

While Zeta was over open ocean Sunday, Jamaica and Honduras were getting heavy rains because the system is so large and South Florida was under a flood watch, McNoldy said.

But once Zeta eventually gets moving, it won't be stalling over landfall, Klotzbach said.

The Hurricane Center said Zeta could bring 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain to parts of the Caribbean and Mexico as well as Florida and the Keys before drenching parts of the central Gulf Coast by Wednesday.

A 2018 study said storms, especially in the Atlantic basin, are slowing down and stalling more. Atlantic storms that made landfall moved 2.9 mph (4.7 kph) slower than 60 years ago, the study found. Study author James Kossin, a government climate scientist, said the trend has signs of human-caused climate change.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 47 of 77

Zeta is also in a dangerous place to stall. The western Caribbean is "where storms can cook" and rapidly intensify because of the deep, warm waters, like 2005's Wilma, Klotzbach said. However, the National Hurricane Center was not forecasting rapid intensification for Zeta.

The lack of steering currents also meant wide spread of possible landfalls when Zeta eventually heads north to the Gulf Coast. The hurricane center said it could make landfall anywhere from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards urged his state's citizens to monitor the storm, and the state activated its Crisis Action Team.

On Sunday, a hurricane warning was posted for the Yucatan Peninsula from Tulum to Rio Lagartos, including Cancun and Cozumel, while a tropical storm warning was in effect for Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

Zeta broke the record of the previous earliest 27th Atlantic named storm that formed Nov. 29, 2005, according to Klotzbach.

This year's season has so many storms that the hurricane center has turned to the Greek alphabet after running out of official names.

Zeta is the furthest into the Greek alphabet the Atlantic season has gone. There was also a Tropical Storm Zeta in 2005, but that year had 28 storms because meteorologists later went back and found they missed one, which then became a "unnamed named storm," Klotzbach said.

Additionally, Hurricane Epsilon was moving quickly through the northern portion of the Atlantic Ocean. Forecasters said it would become a post-tropical cyclone later Sunday. Large ocean swells generated by the hurricane could cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions along U.S. East Coast and Atlantic Canada during the next couple of days.

AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Md., contributed to this report.

## **Trump aide: 'We're not going to control the pandemic'**

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ALEXANDRA JAFFE and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

LONDONDERRY, N.H. (AP) — The coronavirus has reached the upper echelons of the White House again, with an outbreak among aides to Vice President Mike Pence just over a week from Election Day. A top White House official declared: "We're not going to control the pandemic."

Officials on Sunday also scoffed at the notion of Pence dialing back in-person campaigning despite positive tests among several people in his office. Pence, who leads the White House's coronavirus task force, was back out on the road Sunday and has an aggressive travel schedule planned for the final days of the campaign.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, pressed to explain why the pandemic cannot be reined in, said, "Because it is a contagious virus just like the flu." He told CNN's "State of the Union" that the government was focused on getting effective therapeutics and vaccines to market.

Pence, who tested negative on Sunday, according to his office, held a rain-soaked early evening rally in Kinston, North Carolina, a state that Trump won in 2016 and is crucial to his reelection hopes.

The vice president had a shout-out for supporters who braved what he called "this night of tempest, to stand in the rain and stand firm" for Trump. He gave no nod to the coronavirus infection rippling through his staff, and dismissed Democrat Joe Biden's description of the COVID-19 threat as an unwarranted dose of gloom and doom.

The president, for his part, rallied backers in New Hampshire and visited an orchard in Levant, Maine, where he signed autographs and assured a crush of mostly unmasked supporters that a "red wave" was coming on Nov. 3. He and first lady Melania Trump wrapped up the busy weekend by hosting costumed children for a socially distanced Halloween trick-or-treating on the White House grounds.

Biden attended church and participated in a virtual get-out-the-vote concert. He said in a statement that Meadows was effectively waving "the white flag of defeat" and "a candid acknowledgement of what President Trump's strategy has clearly been from the beginning of this crisis."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 48 of 77

In a brief exchange with reporters before the orchard visit, Trump demurred when asked if Pence should step off the campaign trail as a precaution. "You'd have to ask him," Trump said.

The White House said none of the staff traveling with Trump on Sunday had been in close contact with any individuals in the vice president's office who had tested positive. But public health experts said that Pence's decision to keep up in-person campaigning was flouting common sense.

Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University's law school, said Pence in his decision to forgoing quarantine was violating his own task force's recommendations.

"It's one standard for the vice president and another for all the rest of us," Gostin said.

The U.S. set a daily record Friday for new confirmed coronavirus infections and nearly matched it Saturday with 83,178, data published by Johns Hopkins University shows. Close to 8.6 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and about 225,000 have died; both totals are the world's highest. About half the states have seen their highest daily infection numbers so far at some point in October.

Trump, campaigning in Londonderry, New Hampshire, said the rising rate of infections was nothing to be concerned about. "You know why we have cases so much?" Trump asked a shoulder-to-shoulder crowd. "Because all we do is test."

Entering the final full week before the Nov. 3 election, it's clear the Trump team remains committed to full-throttle campaigning. Trump himself has resumed a hectic schedule since recovering from his own recent coronavirus case, and planned to campaign Monday in Pennsylvania. Pence will campaign in Minnesota that day and return to North Carolina on Tuesday.

Despite the rising virus numbers, the White House says the U.S. economy needs to fully reopen and it has tried to counter Biden's criticism that Trump is not doing enough to contain the worst U.S. public health crisis in more than a century.

Trump and his aides again on Sunday lashed out on Biden, falsely asserting Biden was determined to lock down the economy, while the president is centering his attention on getting therapies and vaccines to market.

"We want normal life to resume," Trump said. "We just want normal life."

Biden, in fact, has said he would only shut down the country if that is what government scientists advise. He has said that if elected he would make the case for why a national mask mandate might be necessary and would go to the governors to help increase Americans' mask-wearing.

Pence's office says there are no plans to curtail campaigning. In addition to chief of staff Marc Short, who tested positive Saturday, a "couple" other aides also have also contracted the disease, Meadows said.

Meadows said Pence will wear a mask — "because the doctors have advised him to do that" — but take it off when he gives a speech, as the vice president did on Sunday in North Carolina.

Even with Pence's latest negative test, symptoms, including fever, cough and fatigue, may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some asymptomatic individuals test positive two to three days before developing symptoms.

The White House says Pence was considered in "close contact" with Short under CDC guidelines. The guidelines require that essential workers exposed to someone with the coronavirus closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and wear a mask whenever around other people.

After consulting with the White House Medical Unit, Pence intended to maintain his schedule "in accordance with the CDC guidelines for essential personnel," said Devin O'Malley, a Pence spokesman.

Meadows sidestepped questions about whether Pence's campaigning fit into the spirit of the CDC's guidelines for essential work. "He's not just campaigning, he's working," Meadows said.

The candidates have demonstrated remarkably different attitudes about what they see as safe behavior in the homestretch of a campaign that, as with all aspects of American life, has been upended by the pandemic.

Trump emerged from his own illness with even greater certitude that the nation has gone too far with efforts to stem the virus, and has spoken out repeatedly that children should be in school and healthy



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 49 of 77

Americans should get back to normal life with limited restrictions. Biden has relied on virtual events and small, socially-distanced gatherings to make his case to voters.

"We're not going to control the pandemic. We are going to control the fact that we get vaccines, therapeutics and other mitigation areas," Meadows said on CNN. He added: "We are making efforts to contain it."

Jaffe reported from Wilmington, Delaware, and Madhani from Washington.

## The Latest: Mexico health officials acknowledge higher toll

By The Associated Press undefined

MEXICO CITY — Mexican health authorities acknowledge the country's true death toll from the coronavirus pandemic is far higher than previously thought, saying there were 193,170 "excess" deaths in the year up to Sept. 26.

Of those, 139,153 are now judged to be attributable to COVID-19. Mexico's official, test-confirmed death toll is only about 89,000, but officials previously acknowledged many people didn't get tested or their tests were mishandled.

Authorities had previously presented an estimated death toll of 103,882, after taking into account mishandled tests. But the Health Department said Sunday they had analyzed databases to come up with the latest figure. The analysis picked up symptoms related to COVID-19 mentioned on death certificates even if they weren't listed as the cause of death.

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

- Fear and anxiety spike in virus hotspots across the United States
- Europe's restaurants and bars are being walloped by new virus curfews and restrictions
- Spain orders nationwide curfew to tamp down surging virus infections
- Experts question White House claims that federal rules on essential workers let Vice President Mike Pence keep campaigning after exposure to the coronavirus.
- British doctors are urging the government to reverse course and provide free meals for poor children due to increased poverty caused by the pandemic.
- Italy's leader has imposed at least a month of new restrictions across the country to fight rising coronavirus infections.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

DENVER — Colorado Gov. Jared Polis is quarantining himself after learning that Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman tested positive for the coronavirus.

Coffman's diagnosis on Sunday came over a week after he and the governor appeared with other officials at a press conference.

Coffman said he worked from home starting Thursday after not feeling well and his symptoms were gone by Saturday. He says he got a rapid test Sunday in hopes of being cleared to return to his office and schedule but will now quarantine at home.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient to quarantine for two weeks.

A Polis spokesperson said the governor would quarantine while waiting to hear from contact tracers.

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky has shattered a weekly record for the number of positive coronavirus cases, Gov. Andy Beshear said Sunday.

The 9,335 confirmed cases in the past week broke the mark during the pandemic of 7,675 set during

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 50 of 77

the week of Oct. 5 through 11, Beshear said in a statement.

In addition, at least 1,462 cases were reported Sunday, a record for that day of the week, the statement said.

"We must do better," Beshear said, adding that he plans to make recommendations soon for counties that have 25 or more average daily cases per 100,000 residents.

The statement said at least 1,407 people have died in Kentucky from the virus, including three deaths reported Sunday.

**JERUSALEM** — Israel has decided to begin sending children back to school.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced Sunday that his coronavirus cabinet voted in favor of reopening school for children in grades one through four on Nov. 1. The older children will be divided into "capsules," and the children in younger grades will come on alternating days to minimize class sizes.

Israeli schools opened for the school year on Sept. 1 but quickly moved to distance learning as a coronavirus outbreak spread. The government subsequently imposed a month-long lockdown that closed much of the economy.

After mishandling the lifting of a first lockdown early this year, Israel is moving cautiously this time around. Preschools reopened last week, and older children are to gradually return to school in a staggered plan over the coming weeks.

**MARBLEHEAD, Mass.** — A school district superintendent says a Massachusetts high school will shift to fully remote learning after students attended a house party where they didn't wear masks and shared drinks.

Superintendent John Buckley said in a letter to families on Sunday that action comes in response to a house party Friday with young people who were not social distancing or wearing face covering, and were sharing drinks and "generally ignoring" COVID-19 rules.

Buckley wrote that he understood "young people's desire to be together, as far away from adults as possible," but that ignoring the rules was "potentially harming the community at large."

Marblehead High School students will learn remotely until at least Nov. 6. Buckley said the hybrid learning model could restart Nov. 9 if no coronavirus cases are identified during that time.

**BERLIN** — The head of the United Nations said Sunday that "the Covid-19 pandemic is the greatest crisis of our age."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened an online session of the World Health Summit with a call for worldwide solidarity in the global crisis and demanded that developed countries support health systems in countries that are short of resources.

The coronavirus pandemic is the overarching theme of the summit, which originally had been scheduled for Berlin. Several of the leaders and experts who spoke at the opening stressed the need to cooperate across borders.

"No one is safe from COVID-19. No one is safe until we are all safe from it," said German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "Even those who conquer the virus within their own borders remain prisoners within these borders until it is conquered everywhere."

More than 42 million have been infected with the virus and over 1 million people have died of Covid.

**ROME** — Italy's one-day caseload of confirmed coronavirus infections jumped past 20,000 on Sunday, with more than a quarter of the new cases registered in Lombardy, the northern region which bore the brunt of the pandemic in the country earlier this year.

According to Health Ministry figures, there were 21,273 new cases since the previous day, raising Italy's total of confirmed COVID-19 infections to 525,782.

Health Minister Roberto Speranza said the government's latest crackdown on social freedoms, including closing restaurants in early evening and shuttering gyms, for the next 30 days, was warranted by the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 51 of 77

growth of the contagion curve worldwide, with a "very high wave" in all of Europe.

"Every choice brings sacrifices and renouncing" activities, Speranza said. "We must react immediately and with determination if we want to avoid unsustainable numbers."

Italy's confirmed death toll in the pandemic rose to 37,338, with 128 deaths since Saturday.

**PHOENIX** -- Arizona health officials on Sunday reported 1,392 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and five additional deaths. It's the highest reported single-day coronavirus case total in the state since Sept. 17.

Arizona has continued to see a slow yet steady increase in the average number of COVID-19 cases reported each day as a decline that lasted through August and September reverses.

State Department of Health Services officials said the latest numbers increase Arizona's totals to 238,163 known infections and 5,874 known deaths.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

**SOFIA**, Bulgaria - Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov has tested positive for the new coronavirus as the number of infected with COVID-19 in the Balkan country has been on a steady rise in the two weeks. Borissov made the disclosure in a Facebook message on Sunday.

"After two PCR tests, today I am positive for COVID-19," Borissov wrote.

He said that he has a "general indisposition" and, following the recommendations of doctors, will remain at home for treatment.

The Balkan nation of 7 million people has recorded 37,562 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 1,084 deaths.

**MOSCOW** -- Russia's tally of confirmed coronavirus cases surpassed 1.5 million on Sunday as authorities reported 16,710 new infections amid a rapid resurgence of the outbreak that has swept the country in recent weeks.

Russia's caseload remains the fourth largest in the world. The government's coronavirus task force has also registered a total of over 26,000 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

The task force has been reporting over 15,000 new infections every day since last Sunday, which is much higher than in the spring, when the highest number of daily new cases was 11,656.

Despite the sharp spike in daily new infections, Russian authorities have repeatedly dismissed the idea of imposing a second lockdown or shutting down businesses after most virus-related restrictions were lifted during the summer. In some Russian regions, officials urged the elderly to self-isolate at home and called on employers to have at least part of their staff work from home. Several regions have shut down nightclubs and limited the hours of restaurants and bars.

**BERLIN** — Austria has tightened its coronavirus rules as the Alpine country sees new daily records of infections.

Starting Sunday, no more than six people are allowed to meet indoors, including events such as birthday parties, yoga or dance classes. Outside, a maximum of 12 people are allowed to get together. In restaurants, the number of guests has been reduced to no more than 10 per table.

People also need to wear masks in train stations, markets and nursing homes.

On Saturday, the daily virus numbers reached a new high of reported 3,614 cases. On Sunday, the figure was lower at 2,782, however not all new cases get reported on weekends.

**BALTIMORE** — A day after the U.S. set a daily record for new confirmed coronavirus infections, it came very close to doing it again.

Data published by Johns Hopkins University shows that 83,718 new cases in the U.S. were reported Saturday, nearly matching the 83,757 infections reported Friday. Before that, the most cases reported in

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 52 of 77

the United States on a single day had been 77,362 on July 16.

Close to 8.6 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and about 225,000 have died. Both statistics are the world's highest. India has more than 7.8 million infections but in recent weeks its daily number have been declining.

U.S. health officials have feared the surge of infections to come with colder weather and people spending more time indoors, especially as many flout guidelines to protect themselves and others such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington currently forecasts that the country's COVID-19 death toll could exceed 318,000 by Jan. 1.

**BERLIN** — Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn, who has tested positive for the new coronavirus, appealed to Germans on Sunday to keep obeying precautionary measures as the virus spikes across the country and the hospital intensive care units are filling up again.

Spahn, 40, posted a video on his Facebook page saying he was lucky that other than "cold symptoms," he is not suffering any other COVID-related symptoms. He also said none of his close coworkers at the ministry had yet tested positive.

Spahn appealed to all citizens to wear masks and keep distance in light of quickly rising infection figures. "It is serious. We know the harm this virus can cause, especially for people with preexisting illness and for the elderly and very old," he said.

On Sunday, Germany's national disease control center reported 11,176 new daily infections, almost double the number reported a week ago Sunday. Another 29 people died of COVID, bringing Germany's overall death toll to 10,032.

**ROME** — For at least the next month, gyms, cinemas and movie theaters in Italy will be closed, ski slopes are off-limits to all but competitive skiers, spectators are banned from professional matches including soccer games, and cafes and restaurants must shut down in early evenings.

But the decree signed on Sunday by Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte avoided another severe lockdown despite a current surge in COVID-19 infections.

The decree also continues a recent nationwide order mandating mask-wearing outdoors.

A day earlier, Italy surpassed the half-million mark in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections since the outbreak began in February, the first country to be stricken in Europe. The last two days have seen daily new caseloads creep close to 20,000.

Italy has the second-most confirmed virus deaths in Europe after Britain, with 37,210 dead.

**BERLIN** — Several people attacked Germany's national disease control center with incendiary devices early Sunday, Berlin police reported.

A security guard noticed the attack on the Robert Koch Institute in the German capital and was able to quickly extinguish the flames. Nobody was injured, but one window was destroyed. Criminal police has taken over the investigation on suspicion that the attack may have been politically motivated.

Among other things, the institute keeps track of Germany's coronavirus outbreak. It publishes daily new infection figures and also advises the government and the public on how to keep the pandemic from getting out of control.

While most Germans support the country's handling of the pandemic, some have tried to downplay the dangers of the virus.

On Sunday, the institute reported 11,176 new daily infections, almost double the number reported a week ago Sunday. Another 29 people died of COVID, bringing Germany's overall death toll to 10,032.

**NEW DELHI** — India's daily coronavirus cases have dropped to nearly 50,000, maintaining a downturn over the last few weeks.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 53 of 77

The Health Ministry says 50,129 new cases have taken the overall tally to nearly 7.9 million on Sunday. It also reported 578 deaths in the past 24 hours, raising total fatalities to 118,534.

The ministry also said India's active coronavirus cases were below 700,000 across the country and almost 7.1 million people had recovered from COVID-19.

India is second to the United States with the largest outbreak of the coronavirus. Last month, India hit a peak of nearly 100,000 cases in a single day, but since then daily cases have fallen by about half and deaths by about a third.

Some experts say the decline in cases suggests that the virus may have finally reached a plateau but others question the testing methods. India is relying heavily on antigen tests, which are faster but less accurate than traditional RT-PCR tests.

## FBI investigating fire set in Boston ballot drop box

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

A fire was set Sunday in a Boston ballot drop box holding more than 120 ballots in what Massachusetts election officials said appears to have been a "deliberate attack," now under investigation by the FBI.

The fire that was set around 4 a.m. in a ballot drop box outside the Boston Public Library downtown, Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin's office said.

There were 122 ballots inside the box when it was emptied Sunday morning, and 87 of them were still legible and able to be processed, Galvin's office said. The box had last been emptied around 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

In a joint statement, Galvin and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh called it a "disgrace to democracy, a disrespect to the voters fulfilling their civic duty, and a crime."

"Our first and foremost priority is maintaining the integrity of our elections process and ensuring transparency and trust with our voters, and any effort to undermine or tamper with that process must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," they said in the emailed statement. "We ask voters not to be intimidated by this bad act, and remain committed to making their voices heard in this and every election."

Boston Police said an arson investigation is underway and released surveillance images of a person near the ballot box at that time, urging the public to help identify the individual.

Officers called to the scene saw smoke coming out of the box before firefighters managed to extinguish the fire by filling the box with water, police said.

The FBI said in a statement announcing their investigation that "it is a top priority of our offices to help maintain the integrity of the election process in Massachusetts by aggressively enforcing federal election laws."

Voters can go online to see whether their ballot was processed. Those who used that dropbox between Saturday afternoon and 4 a.m. Sunday and can't confirm the status of their ballot online should contact the Boston Elections Department immediately, officials said.

Voters whose ballots were affected can either vote in person or by a replacement ballot that will be mailed to them, officials said. If those voters don't submit a new ballot, "their original ballot will be hand-counted to the extent possible," Galvin's office said.

## Passenger in Offset's car arrested for concealed weapon

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A passenger in a car driven by Migos rapper Offset was arrested in Beverly Hills, California Saturday evening on charges of carrying a concealed, loaded firearm in public, police said.

The Beverly Hills Police Department tweeted that 20-year-old Marcelo Almanzar is being held on a \$35,000 bail.

Offset livestreamed himself being questioned by police on his Instagram account. The video has since been deleted and he was later released.

Police said they received information from a passerby about a person who pointed a weapon at him from a vehicle, which patrol units stopped and investigated.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 54 of 77

Officials added that reports that Offset had been arrested were inaccurate.

## Early vote total exceeds 2016; GOP chips at Dems' advantage

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and ANGELIKI KASTANIS Associated Press

With nine days before Election Day, more people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states led to a surge in turnout in recent days.

The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic.

The result is a total of 58.6 million ballots cast so far, more than the 58 million that The Associated Press logged as being cast through the mail or at in-person early voting sites in 2016.

Democrats have continued to dominate the initial balloting, but Republicans are narrowing the gap. GOP voters have begun to show up as early in-person voting, a sign that many heeded President Donald Trump's unfounded warnings about mail-voting fraud.

On Oct. 15, Democrats registrants cast 51% of all ballots reported, compared with 25% from Republicans. On Sunday, Democrats had a slightly smaller lead, 51% to 31%.

The early vote totals, reported by state and local election officials and tracked by the AP, are an imperfect indicator of which party may be leading. The data only shows party registration, not which candidate voters support. Most GOP voters are expected to vote on Election Day.

Analysts said the still sizable Democratic turnout puts extra pressure on the Republican Party to push its voters out in the final week and, especially, on Nov. 3. That's especially clear in closely contested states such as Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

"This is a glass half-full, glass half-empty situation," said John Couvillon, a Republican pollster who tracks early voting closely. "They're showing up more," he added, but "Republicans need to rapidly narrow that gap."

In Florida, for example, Democrats have outvoted Republicans by a 596,000 margin by mail, while Republicans only have a 230,000 edge in person. In Nevada, where Democrats usually dominate in-person early voting but the state decided to send a mail ballot to every voter this year, the GOP has a 42,600 voter edge in-person while Democrats have an 97,500 advantage in mail ballots.

"At some point, Republicans have to vote," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who tracks early voting on ElectProject.org. "You can't force everyone through a vote center on Election Day. Are you going to expect all those Republicans to stand in line for eight hours?"

Campaigns typically push their voters to cast ballots early so they can focus scarce resources chasing more marginal voters as the days tick down to Election Day. That usually saves them money on mailers and digital ads — something the cash-strapped Trump campaign would likely want — and minimizes the impact of late surprises that could change the race.

Trump's campaign has been pushing its voters to cast ballots early, but with limited success, delighting Democrats. "We see the Trump campaign, the RNC (Republican National Committee) and their state parties urging Trump's supporters to vote by mail while the president's Twitter account says it's a fraud," Tom Bonier, a Democratic data analyst, said on a recent call with reporters. "The Twitter account is going to win every time."

But Bonier warned that he does not expect a one-sided election. "There are signs of Republicans being engaged," he said. "We do expect them to come out in very high numbers on Election Day."

That split in voting behavior — Democrats voting early, Republicans on Election Day — has led some Democrats to worry about Trump declaring victory because early votes are counted last in Rust Belt battlegrounds. But they're counted swiftly in swing states such as Arizona, Florida and North Carolina, which may balance out which party seems ahead on election night.

Some of the record-setting turnout has led to long lines at early-vote locations and there have been

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 55 of 77

occasional examples of voters receiving mail ballots that are incorrectly formatted. But on a whole, voting has gone relatively smoothly. With more than one-third of the 150 million ballots that experts predict will be cast in the election, there have been no armed confrontations at polling places or massive disenfranchisement that have worried election experts for months.

One sign of enthusiasm is the large number of new or infrequent voters who have already voted — 25% of the total cast, according to an AP analysis of data from the political data firm L2. Those voters are younger than a typical voter and less likely to be white. So far similar shares of them are registering Democratic and Republican.

They have helped contribute to enormous turnouts in states such as Georgia, where 26.3% of the people who've voted are new or infrequent voters, and Texas, which is expected to set turnout record and where 30.5% are new or infrequent voters.

The strong share of new and infrequent voters in the early vote is part of what leads analysts to predict more than 150 million total votes will be cast and possibly the highest turnout in a U.S. presidential election since 1908.

"There's a huge chunk of voters who didn't cast ballots in 2016," Bonier said. "They're the best sign of intensity at this point."

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/>

## Senate votes to advance Barrett; confirmation expected Mon

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans voted overwhelmingly Sunday to advance Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett toward final confirmation despite Democratic objections, just over a week before the presidential election.

Barrett's confirmation on Monday was hardly in doubt, with majority Republicans mostly united in support behind President Donald Trump's pick. But Democrats were poised to keep the Senate in session into the night in attempts to stall, arguing that the Nov. 3 election winner should choose the nominee to fill the vacancy left by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Republicans are excited by the chance to install a third Trump justice on the court, locking in a conservative majority for years to come. Barrett's ascent opens up a potential new era of rulings on abortion, gay marriage and the Affordable Care Act. A case against the Obama-era health law scheduled to be heard Nov. 10.

"The Senate is doing the right thing," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, vowing to install Barrett to the court by Monday.

The 51-48 vote launched 30 hours of Senate debate. Two Republicans, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, voted against advancing the nominee, and all Democrats who voted were opposed. California Sen. Kamala Harris, the vice presidential nominee, missed the vote while campaigning in Michigan.

Vice President Mike Pence would typically preside over the coming votes, but after a close aide tested positive for the COVID-19, it was unclear whether he will fulfill his role for the landmark vote.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said the Trump administration's drive to install Barrett during the coronavirus crisis shows "the Republican Party is willing to ignore the pandemic in order to rush this nominee forward."

The conservative judge picked up the crucial backing Saturday from Murkowski, one of the last GOP holdouts against filling the seat in the midst of a White House election and with more than 50 million people already having voted.

Murkowski said she disliked the rush toward confirmation, but supported Trump's choice of Barrett for the high court. She said would vote against the procedural steps, but ultimately join GOP colleagues in confirming Barrett. "While I oppose the process that has led us to this point, I do not hold it against her,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 56 of 77

Murkowski said.

Now the only Republican expected to vote against Barrett is Collins, who faces a tight reelection in Maine. She has said she won't vote for the nominee so close to the election.

McConnell, R-Ky., noted the political rancor, but defended his handling of the process. He scoffed at the Democrats' "horror stories" about the judge's conservative qualifications.

Barrett, 48, presented herself in public testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee as a neutral arbiter and at one point suggested, "It's not the law of Amy." But Barrett's past writings against abortion and a ruling on "Obamacare" show a deeply conservative thinker.

"She's a conservative woman who embraces her faith, she's unabashedly pro-life but she's not going to apply 'the law of Amy' to all of us," said the committee chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said late Saturday on Fox.

At the start of Trump's presidency, McConnell engineered a Senate rules change to allow confirmation by a majority of the 100 senators, rather than the 60-vote threshold traditionally needed to advance high court nominees over objections. With a 53-47 GOP majority, Barrett's confirmation is almost certain.

By pushing for Barrett's ascension so close to the Nov. 3 election, Trump and his Republican allies are counting on a campaign boost, in much the way they believe McConnell's refusal to allow the Senate to consider President Barack Obama's nominee in February 2016 created excitement for Trump among conservatives and evangelical Christians eager for the Republican president to make that nomination after Justice Antonin Scalia's death.

Barrett was a professor at Notre Dame Law School when she was tapped by Trump in 2017 for an appeals court opening. Two Democrats joined at that time to confirm her, but none is expected to vote for her in the days ahead.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington, Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, and Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska contributed to this report.

## Italy closes gyms, shuts eateries early to fight COVID-19

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's leader imposed at least a month of new restrictions across the country Sunday to fight rising coronavirus infections, shutting down gyms, pools and movie theaters, putting an early curfew on cafes and restaurants and mandating that people keep wearing masks outdoors.

Worried about crippling Italy's stagnant economy, especially after 10 weeks of a severe lockdown earlier in the pandemic, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte opted against another heavy nationwide lockdown. The new decree goes into effect Monday and lasts until Nov. 24.

"Our aim is to protect health and the economy," Conte said.

A day earlier, Italy surpassed a half million confirmed coronavirus cases since February, when it became the first country in Europe stricken by the pandemic. On Sunday, Italy registered 21,273 new confirmed cases and 128 deaths since the day before. Italy has reported a total of 37,338 virus deaths, Europe's second-highest pandemic death toll after Britain.

Restaurant and bar owners had lobbied hard against the new measures, which orders them to close at 6 p.m. Most restaurants in Italy usually don't even start to serve dinner before 8 p.m. Cafes and restaurants were allowed in recent months to re-open for outdoor dining or limited indoor seating. But many are struggling to pay their bills and some have already failed after tourists were banned from the United States and many other countries.

Conte promised financial aid from his center-left government as soon as November to the food sector and noted that cafes and restaurants can do delivery and takeout orders until midnight. But before the curfew, no more than four diners will be allowed per restaurant table, unless they are from the same family.

Under the new rules, ski slopes are off-limits to all but competitive skiers and all spectators are banned from stadiums during professional sports matches, including soccer. Receptions after religious or civil



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 57 of 77

ceremonies like weddings are forbidden. The decree continues to exempt children younger than six and those exercising outdoors from wearing masks.

"We all have to do small sacrifices," Conte said. "If we can't go to the gym, we can exercise outdoors."

Conte kept elementary and middle schools open but said 75% of high school students must have remote classes. Crowding on public transit, especially since schools reopened last month, has concerned health authorities.

By early summer, after Italy's lockdown was all but lifted, new virus caseloads had dropped as low as 200 a day.

"These are difficult days," Health Minister Roberto Speranza said after Conte explained the aim of the latest limits. "The curve of contagion is growing in the world. And in all Europe the wave is very high. We must react immediately and with determination if we want to avoid unsustainable numbers."

Several Italian regions and cities recently slapped on overnight curfews to cut down on young people congregating outdoors, especially to drink. But Conte said given the approaching cold weather, people would prefer to socialize inside at bars and restaurants instead, so that's why he ordered them to close early.

On Friday, demonstrators in Naples protested a 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew and clashed with police. On Saturday night, far-right and neo-fascist political groups led a similar protest in Rome against that city's curfew.

Conte said he understood the frustration of citizens, whose incomes and way of life are being heavily hit by pandemic limitations.

"I'd feel anger, too, toward the government," he said, but noted that authorities had determined that the protests were also fueled by agitators.

Since early in the pandemic, masks have been required on Italy's public transit and in indoor venues like supermarkets and other stores.

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

## UK military seizes tanker that reported violent stowaways

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.K. military seized control of an oil tanker that dropped anchor in the English Channel after reporting Sunday it had seven stowaways on board who had become violent.

Defense Secretary Ben Wallace and Home Secretary Priti Patel authorized the action in response to a police request, the British Ministry of Defense said. Police investigations will now continue, and initial reports confirmed the tanker's crew was safe and well, the ministry said.

"I commend the hard work of the armed forces and police to protect lives and secure the ship," Wallace said. "In dark skies and worsening weather, we should all be grateful for our brave personnel."

The incident began Sunday morning on the Libyan-registered tanker Nave Andromeda. The coast guard scrambled two helicopters to the scene, and authorities imposed a three-mile exclusion zone around the vessel.

The Nave Andromeda left Lagos, Nigeria, on Oct. 6 and had been expected to dock in Southampton, England, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, according to ship tracking website MarineTraffic.com. The tanker had been circling an area about five miles southeast of Sandown on the Isle of Wight since about 10 a.m., tracking data showed.

Chris Parry, a retired Royal Navy rear admiral who is now a fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, told The Associated Press he suspects the stowaways grew violent as the tanker neared port, and the crew retreated to a secure area known as "the citadel" to retain control of the vessel.

The captain probably wanted to avoid taking a fully loaded tanker into the heavily populated area near the Portsmouth navy base, where Britain's carriers are based, as long as this incident was going on, Parry said.

"You don't want this ship anywhere near with this sort of thing going on," he said. "And so the captain probably rather wisely and in consultation with his owners, went to anchor off the Isle of Wight."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 58 of 77

Bob Seely, who represents the Isle of Wight in Parliament, said the British government was likely to convene a meeting of its emergency committee to discuss the incident. Trouble on the ship is of particular concern because of the tanker's cargo and because the vessel started out from West Africa, he said.

"I suspect, because of the nature of this, it will be treated as marine counter-terrorism," Seely told Sky News. "The number of people in the U.K. who do that are very limited, and the relevant units will be looking at options, no doubt, as to what we could be doing."

Parry said that such stowaway incidents are not infrequent and are likely to increase as migrants look for new ways to enter Britain.

"I think the most important thing to take away from this is that we have a world that's on the move, and the sea is the physical equivalent to the World Wide Web," he said. "And people will find out how to get between countries by sea, by any other route that gets them from one place to another, where they can obviously advance themselves economically, improve their lives and get away from whatever horrors or disadvantages that they were born into."

## Health experts question Pence campaigning as essential work

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

Health policy specialists questioned White House officials' claim that federal rules on essential workers allow Vice President Mike Pence to continue to campaign and not quarantine himself after being exposed to the coronavirus.

Campaigning is not an official duty that might fall under the guidelines meant to ensure that police, first responders and key transportation and food workers can still perform jobs that cannot be done remotely, the health experts said.

A Pence aide said Sunday that the vice president would continue to work and travel, including for campaigning, after his chief of staff and some other close contacts tested positive. Pence tested negative on Sunday and decided to keep traveling after consulting White House medical personnel, his aides said.

Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, was among those who tested positive. President Donald Trump, said early Sunday that Short was quarantining.

That usually means isolating oneself for 14 days after exposure in case an infection is developing, to prevent spreading the virus to others.

Pence was holding a rally Sunday in North Carolina, events in Minnesota and Pennsylvania on Monday and more events in North Carolina and South Carolina on Tuesday. The most recent numbers show COVID-19 cases are rising in 75% of the country.

On Sunday, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien told reporters that Pence "is following all the rules" from federal health officials. He called Pence "an essential worker" and said, "essential workers going out and campaigning and voting are about as essential as things we can do as Americans."

However, the guidelines on essential workers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are aimed at folks like police, first responders and key transportation and food workers.

The Department of Homeland Security spells out 16 categories of critical infrastructure workers, including those at military bases, nuclear power sites, courthouses and public works facilities like dams and water plants.

"I don't see campaigning on the list," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, vice dean for public health practice at Johns Hopkins University and former Maryland state health department chief. "Anything that does not have to be done in person and anything not related to his job as vice president would not be considered essential."

Dr. Thomas Tsai, a health policy specialist at Harvard University, agreed.

Helping to maintain the function of the executive branch of government could be considered critical work, but "we've always historically separated campaigning from official duties," he said.

Pence also serves as president of the Senate, a largely ceremonial role outlined in the Constitution but one that stands to come into focus Monday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 59 of 77

The Senate was expected to vote Monday evening to confirm Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett. Pence's vote is unlikely to be needed to break a tie, but his presence was expected for the vote.

If Pence's official work as vice president was considered essential, the CDC guidelines say he should be closely monitored for COVID-19 symptoms, stay at least 6 feet from others and wear a mask "at all times while in the workplace."

Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University school of law, said Pence's intention to continue campaigning flouts the spirit of the CDC guidelines.

Sharfstein said Pence "could be putting people at risk" because he's at high risk of becoming infected. "He should quarantine in order to protect other people," Sharfstein said.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Amer Madhani contributed from Washington.

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.

This story has been corrected to show that Trump said Short, not Pence, was quarantining.

## Black contractor braves threats in removing Richmond statues

By SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Devon Henry paced in nervous anticipation, because this was a project like nothing he'd ever done. He wore the usual hard hat — and a bulletproof vest.

An accomplished Black businessman, Henry took on a job the city says others were unwilling to do: lead contractor for the now-completed removal of 14 pieces of Confederate statuary that dotted Virginia's capital city. There was angry opposition, and fear for the safety of all involved.

But when a crane finally plucked the equestrian statue of Gen. Stonewall Jackson off the enormous pedestal where it had towered over this former capital of the Confederacy for more than a century, church bells chimed, thunder clapped and the crowd erupted in cheers.

Henry's brother grabbed him, and they jumped up and down. He saw others crying in the pouring rain. "You did it, man," said Rodney Henry.

Success came at some cost. Devon Henry faced death threats, questions about the prices he charged, allegations of cronyism over past political donations to the city's mayor and an inquiry by a special prosecutor. But he has no regrets.

"I feel a great deal of conviction in what we did and how it was done," Henry, 43, told The Associated Press in the only interview he has given.

As recently as a few years ago, the removal of Richmond's collection of Confederate monuments seemed nearly impossible, even as other tributes to rebel leaders around the U.S. started falling.

It was a particularly charged issue in a historic city with a central role in the Civil War. And the statues, especially along historic Monument Avenue, were breathtaking in size and valued for their artistic quality, drawing visitors like Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower.

The tide turned after the death of George Floyd in police custody, which ignited a wave of Confederate monument removals. Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney and the city council committed to removing the statues, something the Democrat-led General Assembly had authorized earlier in the year.

Stoney, who is Black and has also faced backlash to his role in the monument removals, including racist and threatening voicemails, said in a debate in early October that "what we did was legal, it was appropriate, and it was right."

Henry "put his life on the line, put his family's lives on the line, he put his business on the line. And we removed those monuments," the mayor said.

The man who oversaw the statue removals is a Virginia native with an easy laugh and warm smile, the son of a single mother who had him at 16 and worked her way up from a crew member at McDonald's

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 60 of 77

to the operator of five stores. He, his college sweetheart and their two kids live in suburban Richmond. Records show his Newport News-based Team Henry Enterprises has won more than \$100 million in federal contracts in the past decade. The company has handled projects ranging from invasive species removal to crane services for the U.S. Army to general construction. Team Henry was the general contractor on the recently completed Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia.

He serves on several boards, including those of a bank and a health system foundation, and is a member of the Board of Visitors at his alma mater, Norfolk State University, where he endowed a scholarship.

Henry said the city's Department of Public Works asked him in mid-June if he would be interested in the statue project. A contractor who turned the city down gave them his name, he said.

Henry huddled with his family to make sure everyone was on board. His son and daughter "started Googling" and "there was most definitely a level of concern" when they read about what happened in Charlottesville (where plans to remove a Robert E. Lee statue sparked a deadly white supremacist rally in 2017) and New Orleans (where a contractor's car was firebombed).

Ultimately, they all agreed to take the job. This was an opportunity to be a part of history.

For safety, he said, he sought to conceal his company's identity, creating a shell entity, NAH LLC, through which the \$1.8 million contract was funneled.

Stoney's administration initially declined to say who was behind the company, but the arrangement eventually came to light through public records requests and reporting by local news outlets. One blog ran a story headlined, "The Gory Details of Levar Stoney's Statue Contract." It was also reported that Henry had donated a total of \$4,000 to Stoney and his political action committee.

Since his name and company became public, Henry said he's received death threats. He's added extra cameras to both his home and office security systems, he's gotten a concealed carry permit, taken defensive shooting classes and now carries a weapon wherever he goes.

He said he's also faced business repercussions. Some subcontractors have declined to work with him, he said, or doubled their prices.

An ongoing inquiry by a special prosecutor into the contract was initiated after Kim Gray, a city councilwoman who formerly opposed removing the monuments and is one of Stoney's opponents in the November election, raised concerns about the deal.

Some of the mayor's critics have questioned whether the price tag for the project, which included the removal of both large figures and smaller plaques, was reasonable. The statues are gone, but their enormous pedestals remain in place.

Some U.S. cities have paid more, like New Orleans, where it cost more than \$2.1 million to remove four monuments. Others, like Baltimore, have paid far less. That city paid under \$20,000 for four statues, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Andrew Baxter, a nationally known conservator of outdoor sculpture who has worked on projects at the White House and the National Gallery of Art and has conducted extensive restoration work in the past on several of Richmond's largest Confederate monuments, was critical of the mayor's handling of the situation. Stoney acted without the city council's formal sign-off and before completing procedural steps in the new law.

Still, Baxter said the amount the city paid seemed reasonable.

Henry said the safety considerations of the job were a consideration in setting the price.

"It's not a situation where you're just putting in a crane on the street and you're putting an air conditioner on top of a unit," he said.

There was trouble finding subcontractors. Even a company he worked with on the UVA memorial gave him a resounding "hell no" when asked to participate, Henry said. A representative of another company suggested he should go take down a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. Truckers involved didn't want their vehicle logos showing. Workers ended up traveling in from Wisconsin and Connecticut.

Henry negotiated the security plans, eventually working with the city sheriff's department because he said the police department was not willing to participate. (A police department spokesman declined to comment.) He also hired private security.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 61 of 77

In the end, the project went on without incident.

In an interview a block away from the pedestal that once held Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's statue, Henry mused about his participation in two very different projects reflecting this moment in the story of race and America.

He helped build the UVA memorial, two nested granite rings, one with a timeline of the history of slavery at the school — a tribute to the enslaved people who built and maintained one of the country's most prestigious public universities but had long gone unrecognized.

And he helped remove the Richmond statues, which he called tools of oppression against Black Americans. "To be a Black man in the middle to do it, it felt pretty good," he said.

## Fear and anxiety spike in virus hot spots across US

By HOLLY RAMER and ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

Preslie Paur breaks down in tears when she thinks of her state's refusal to mandate face masks.

The South Salt Lake City, Utah, woman can't work at her special education job due to an autoimmune disease. Her husband, also a special ed teacher, recently quit because his school district would not allow him to work remotely to protect her and their 5-year-old son, who has asthma.

"I feel forgotten," Paur said. "We're living in a world we no longer fit in. We did everything right. We went to college, we got jobs, we tried to give back to our community, and now our community is not giving back to us. And I'm very scared."

As President Donald Trump barnstorms the swing states, often downplaying the coronavirus pandemic before largely unmasked crowds, the nation continues to lurch toward what his opponent Joe Biden, citing health experts, warned will be a "dark winter" of disease and death.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told CNN on Sunday that "we're not going to control the pandemic." Asked why, he said it's "because it is a contagious virus just like the flu."

Vice President Mike Pence will continue campaigning despite his chief of staff testing positive for COVID-19. His office said Pence and his wife both tested negative for the virus Sunday.

About half of U.S. states have seen their highest daily infection numbers so far at some point in October, and the country as a whole came very close to back-to-back record daily infection rates on Friday and Saturday.

Data from Johns Hopkins University shows that 83,718 new cases were reported Saturday, just shy of the 83,757 infections reported Friday. Before that, the most cases reported in the United States on a single day had been 77,362, on July 16.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, which federal health officials have used as a source for their pandemic projections, currently forecasts that the U.S. COVID-19 death toll could exceed 318,000 by Jan. 1.

As of Sunday, there were more than 8.6 million confirmed infections in the U.S., with deaths climbing to over 225,000, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

At least seven states — Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio and Oklahoma — saw record high infection levels Saturday. And some Northeastern states hit hard in the spring are seeing numbers bounce back; New Jersey's toll of 1,909 new infections Saturday was the most it had seen in a day since early May.

The virus also is surging in the Mountain West, especially Idaho and Utah.

In Twin Falls, Idaho, new data suggest that 1 in 24 residents has contracted the coronavirus, said Dr. Joshua Kern, vice president of medical affairs at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. Amid a crush of new cases, the hospital brought in nurses from Boise, scaled back elective surgery and, as of Friday, stopped admitting pediatric patients.

"It's gotten kind of out of hand," Kern told The Associated Press. "We've had something like a third of our total COVID cases in our community in the last two to three weeks. There are a lot of parts of the state suffering under the same burden."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 62 of 77

Kern said Twin Falls had been lulled into complacency after months of relatively low numbers, adding "going back to school was the signal to our communities that we can get back to normal."

"It's like the community said, 'Oh, good. It's over. We can party again,' and we saw the virus increase," he said. "This week, we went to the coffee shop to get pastries for our group, and it was closed because of COVID. And we knew that the week before, they had been in there unmasked."

Mark Chidichimo, a retired FBI agent, said his sister, brother-in-law, brother, nephew and 92-year-old father in Idaho have all been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last three weeks.

Chidichimo, who lives in New Jersey, had nothing but praise for St. Luke's in Twin Falls, but said his brother was told that if he needed hospitalization, he'd be sent to Seattle, more than 600 miles away.

"Hey, Idaho. This is coming from someone who has been there, done that: You really want to avoid this if you can," he said. "It's going to be really bad, and I pray to God that none of my family members have to be hospitalized. Because if they do, I don't know if they'll survive."

After months of improvement, parts of Europe are going back into lockdown or ramping up restrictions again amid a spike in infections. Italy imposed at least a month of new restrictions across the country on Sunday, insisting that people outdoors wear masks, shutting down gyms, pools and movie theaters, and putting an early curfew on cafes and restaurants.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn, who tested positive Wednesday, pleaded with citizens to wear masks as the virus spikes across the country and hospital ICUs are filling up again.

"Please continue to help and don't listen to those who play down (coronavirus)," he said. "It is serious."

In New Mexico, which reported record numbers of additional COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in recent days, more than 350 doctors, nurses and other health care professionals signed a letter imploring residents to stay home as much as possible, wear masks and limit large gatherings to help prevent another wave of "lonely deaths."

"Please help health care professionals help you," said the letter, posted on the state Department of Health's website. "Help us protect you. Help us ensure that we have the resources to treat the sick and care for the dying."

On Saturday, New Mexico officials reported 875 new cases and five additional deaths, increasing the state's totals to 41,040 cases and 965 deaths. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations increased to 264, up from a record 229 on Friday, which topped the previous high of 223 from mid-May.

Paur, whose brother and his girlfriend both recently tested positive for the virus, is worried about them, and herself.

"People need to know that our lives are on the line," the Utah woman said. "We're running out of money really fast."

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Ramer reported from Concord, N.H.; Sainz reported from Memphis, Tennessee. Associated Press writer Jim Mustian in New Orleans contributed.

## Black D.C. archbishop's rise marks a historic moment

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington D.C. Archbishop Wilton Gregory is set to become the first Black U.S. prelate to assume the rank of cardinal in the Catholic Church, a historic appointment that comes months after nationwide demonstrations against racial injustice.

Gregory's ascension, announced on Sunday by Pope Francis alongside 12 other newly named cardinals, elevates a leader who has drawn praise for his handling of the sexual abuse scandal that has roiled the church. The Washington-area archbishop also has spoken out in recent days about the importance of Catholic leaders working to combat the sin of racial discrimination.

The 72-year-old Gregory, ordained in his native Chicago in 1973, took over leadership of the capital's archdiocese last year after serving as archbishop of Atlanta since 2005. The ceremony making his elevation official is slated for Nov. 28.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 63 of 77

"With a very grateful and humble heart, I thank Pope Francis for this appointment which will allow me to work more closely with him in caring for Christ's Church," Gregory said in a statement issued by the archdiocese.

Gregory helped shape the church's "zero tolerance" response to the sexual abuse scandal while serving as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2001 to 2004. During that period, the bishops adopted a charter designed to govern its treatment of sexual abuse allegations made by minor children against priests. The church's efforts since 2004 have helped achieve a sharp reduction in child-sex abuse cases. But some abuse continues to occur, and the church's procedures for addressing abuse continue to incur criticism from those who feel there's a lack of consistency and transparency.

More recently, amid nationwide protests this summer sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Gregory made headlines for issuing a statement critical of President Donald Trump's visit to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. That presidential visit to the shrine came one day after demonstrators were forcefully cleared to facilitate Trump's visit to an Episcopal church in Washington, and Gregory responded that he considered "it baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated."

During a June dialogue hosted by Georgetown University, Gregory talked frankly about his own response to Floyd's killing and emphasized the value of church involvement in pressing social issues.

"The church lives in society. The church does not live behind the four doors of the structures where we worship," Gregory said then.

The Washington D.C. archdiocese has created an anti-racism initiative under Gregory's leadership, offering focused prayer and listening sessions.

In addition to his work combating racial injustice and sexual abuse in the church, Gregory has drawn notice for his more inclusive treatment of LGBTQ Catholics. In 2014, while serving in Atlanta, he wrote a positive column about his conversations with a group of Catholic parents of LGBTQ children.

Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, which represents LGBTQ Catholics, said his group is "very excited" to see Gregory's elevation and connected it back to Francis' recently reported comments supporting civil unions for same-sex couples.

Gregory's elevation, while pathbreaking for Black Americans in the church, also follows a pattern of D.C.-area archbishops getting named to the rank of cardinal. Five of the six prelates who previously held Gregory's position were later named cardinals.

The archdiocese, though, has become embroiled in the abuse crisis since its previous two leaders — Donald Wuerl and Theodore McCarrick — were implicated in the church sex scandal.

Francis in February 2019 defrocked McCarrick after a Vatican-backed investigation concluded he sexually abused minors and adults over his long career. It was the first time a cardinal had been dismissed from the priesthood for abuse.

Francis reluctantly accepted Wuerl's resignation in October 2018 after he lost the trust of his priests and parishioners in the months following the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report. The report accused Wuerl of helping to protect some child-molesting priests while he was bishop of Pittsburgh from 1988 to 2006.

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Associated Press reporter David Crary contributed.

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## Rays' rally joins Buckner, Bevens among wild Series endings

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — It was improbable enough that little-known Brett Phillips would get the big hit for Tampa Bay against Dodgers All-Star closer Kenley Jansen.

What followed was outright inconceivable.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 64 of 77

Phillips' tying single with two outs in the ninth inning turned into a game-ending hit when the Los Angeles Dodgers dropped the ball twice, allowing Randy Arozarena to stumble home as the winning run in the Rays' 8-7 victory in World Series Game 4 on Saturday night.

It was undoubtedly one of the wildest endings in World Series history. Arozarena tripped and fell on his way home and had begun retreating to third base when catcher Will Smith misplayed a relay feed. Arozarena about-faced and dived toward home, pounding on the plate with a big smile while Phillips burst into tears in the outfield.

"Man, baseball is fun," Phillips said.

Walk-off homers are one thing — think Kirk Gibson, Carlton Fisk and Bill Mazeroski, among many others. But a finish this wacky has only a few precedents in World Series history.

Some more memorable, unimaginable endings from Series past:

## 1926 WORLD SERIES GAME 7, ST. LOUIS CARDINALS AT NEW YORK YANKEES

Babe Ruth was already the most fearsome slugger baseball had ever seen when he stepped to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning, his mighty Yankees trailing the Cardinals 3-2.

With two outs, Hall of Famer pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander took no chances and walked Ruth, bringing cleanup man Bob Meusel to the plate — Lou Gehrig was up after that.

Ruth decided to try to force the action and took off, and was thrown out by catcher Bob O'Farrell. It was the only time a World Series ended with a caught stealing.

## 1947 WORLD SERIES GAME 4, NEW YORK YANKEES AT BROOKLYN DODGERS

Bill Bevens went 7-13 for the Yankees in the final season of a brief major league career, then got the start at Ebbets Field. In the biggest game of his life, he was all over the place, walking a record 10 batters.

But he was effectively wild, too. Because with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, Bevens was somehow still pitching a no-hitter and holding a 2-1 lead. That's when aging, popular Dodgers All-Star Cookie Lavagetto stepped up and launched a double off the right field wall, scoring two runs and ending Bevens' bid for a most unlikely no-hitter.

It was Lavagetto's last hit as a big leaguer and tied the Series at 2-all. Bevens pitched just once more in the majors, tossing shutout relief in Game 7 as the Yankees won another title.

## 1986 WORLD SERIES GAME 6, BOSTON RED SOX AT NEW YORK METS

Precisely 34 years before the Dodgers' double miscue Saturday night, Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner let Mookie Wilson's 10th-inning grounder roll between his legs in baseball's most well-known blunder.

The error came after Boston scored twice in the top of the inning, only to let New York tie it on Ray Knight's RBI single and a wild pitch by Bob Stanley. The score was knotted at 5 when Buckner let Wilson's dribbler go by, bringing the winning run around and setting the stage for the Mets' Game 7 victory.

The Red Sox — at the time still plagued by the Curse of the Bambino — didn't win a World Series until 2004.

## 2013 WORLD SERIES GAME 3, BOSTON RED SOX AT ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Allen Craig scored the winning run for St. Louis without ever touching home plate after umpire Jim Joyce ruled Craig was obstructed by third baseman Will Middlebrooks.

The game was tied at 4 with one out in the bottom of the ninth when second baseman Dustin Pedroia dived for a grounder and threw out Yadier Molina trying to score from third. Catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia then fired wildly trying to catch Craig at third, and Middlebrooks tripped Craig after trying to catch the ball. Craig scampered home and appeared to be thrown out before either side realized Joyce had made the obstruction call.

The win put St. Louis up 2-1 in the Series, but Boston won the next three games for their third championship in a 10-year span.

## 2016 WORLD SERIES GAME 7, CHICAGO CUBS AT CLEVELAND INDIANS

Before the Cubs could end their 108-year title drought, they had to wait out a 17-minute rain delay.

Chicago led 6-3 when All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman entered with two outs in the eighth inning. Brandon Guyer greeted him with an RBI double and Rajai Davis followed with a stunning two-run shot to tie it.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 65 of 77

Both teams went scoreless in the ninth, and the grounds crew rolled out the tarp before they could begin the 10th. Jason Heyward delivered a fiery speech to his Cubs teammates during the delay, and they responded with two runs when play resumed.

Cleveland threatened in the bottom of the 10th, with Davis driving home a run to cut the deficit to 8-7, but Michael Martinez then grounded out to third baseman Kris Bryant to end the game — and decades of woe for fans on Chicago's North Side.

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

## Foreign students show less zeal for US since Trump took over

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — On a recruiting trip to India's tech hub of Bangalore, Alan Cramb, the president of a reputable Chicago university, answered questions not just about dorms or tuition but also American work visas.

The session with parents fell in the chaotic first months of Donald Trump's presidency. After an inaugural address proclaiming "America first," two travel bans, a suspended refugee program and hints at restricting skilled worker visas widely used by Indians, parents doubted their children's futures in the U.S.

"Nothing is happening here that isn't being watched or interpreted around the world," said Cramb, who leads the Illinois Institute of Technology, where international scholars have been half the student body.

America was considered the premier destination for international students, with the promise of top-notch universities and unrivaled job opportunities. Yet, 2016 marked the start of a steep decline of new enrollees, something expected to continue with fresh rules limiting student visas, competition from other countries and a haphazard coronavirus response. The effect on the workforce will be considerable, experts predict, no matter the outcome of November's election.

Trump has arguably changed the immigration system more than any U.S. president, thrilling supporters with a nationalist message and infuriating critics who call the approach to his signature issue insular, xenophobic and even racist. Before the election, The Associated Press is examining some of his immigration policies, including restrictions on international students.

For colleges that fear dwindling tuition and companies that worry about losing talent, the broader impact is harder to quantify: America seemingly losing its luster on a global stage.

"It's not as attractive as it once was," said Dodeye Ewa, who's finishing high school in Calabar, Nigeria.

Unlike two older siblings who left for U.S. schools, the aspiring pediatrician is focused on Canada. In America, she fears bullying for being an international student and a Black woman.

Trump senior adviser Stephen Miller predicted that after a COVID-19 vaccine, an improving economy would draw talent.

"Our superior economic position is going to mean that the world's most talented doctors, scientists, technicians, engineers, etc., will all be thinking of the United States as their first country of destination," Miller told the AP.

Roughly 5.3 million students study outside their home countries, a number that's more than doubled since 2001. But the U.S. share dropped from 28% in 2001 to 21% last year, according to the Association of International Educators, or NAFSA.

New international students in America have declined for three straight years: a 3% drop in the 2016 school year — the first in about a decade — followed by 7% and 1% dips, according to the Institute of International Education, which releases an annual November report. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's fall snapshot shows a 13.7% drop in undergraduate international students.

The government cites high college costs, but students and school leaders tell another story.

At IIT, a Chicago university known for engineering, computer science and architecture, there was a 25% decline in international students from fall 2016 to fall 2018.

Cramb has noticed a change in tone on campus. More international students want to return home.

The pandemic has only exacerbated things, including a short-lived Trump administration rule requiring

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 66 of 77

international students to leave if their schools held online-only classes. Students panicked, universities protested and lawsuits followed.

The Department of Homeland Security then unveiled draft rules last month imposing fixed student visa terms. Instead of being valid while students are enrolled, visas could be limited to four years, with students from countries including Iran and Syria eligible for two years.

Federal officials say it's a way to fight fraud and overstaying visas. But colleges call it another barrier.

"Right out of the gate, you had the first travel ban, and that really crystalized for students and scholars what was perceived as rhetoric really would translate into actual policy and create a tremendous amount of uncertainty," said Rachel Banks, a director at NAFSA. "If I choose to study in the U.S. will I be able to finish?"

There haven't been many reassurances.

The Trump administration has floated curtailing Optional Practical Training, a popular program allowing international students to work. Roughly 223,000 participated in 2018-19, according to the Institute of International Education.

This month, the administration announced plans to limit H1-B skilled-worker visas, often a path for foreign students. It was pitched as a way to address pandemic-related job losses, following a June order temporarily suspending H1-Bs. It's prompted a lawsuit.

Democrat Joe Biden has promised to reverse some Trump immigration orders. He's pitched more skilled-worker visas and giving foreign graduates of U.S. doctoral programs a pathway to citizenship.

Dodeye Ewa's brother Wofai Ewa, an IIT senior studying mechanical engineering, wants to stay in America but worries about his options. He understands his sister's doubts.

Trump's disparaging words on immigrants have irked him, including the tone surrounding a January rule to curb family-based immigration from Nigeria and other countries.

"He made remarks about Nigerian immigrants getting jobs, and that put a weird tension around people who wanted to come here," he said. "That put us in a bad light."

Nearly 60% of U.S. colleges reported the social and political environment contributed to the decline of new international students, according a 2019 Institute of International Education survey.

Most colleges in the survey said the difficulty in obtaining U.S. visas was also to blame. Student visas issued under Trump shrunk 42%, from nearly 700,000 in 2015 to under 400,000 last year, according to the State Department.

There are signs of waning interest in America in India, which with China, provides the most international students globally.

In 2018, about 90% of Indians studying abroad chose the U.S., with fewer than 5% in Canada. For the 2021 school year, roughly 77% plan to study in America, and nearly 14% chose Canada. That's according to a survey by Yocket, a Mumbai-based startup helping roughly 400,000 Indian students plan study abroad.

Yocket co-founder Sumeet Jain said there's still wide belief America is unmatched for science, technology, engineering and math fields, but students have a backup these days.

Several several nations have made it easier for international students.

Canada allows foreign scholars to count part of their schooling toward a residency requirement for citizenship. The United Kingdom allows them to stay for two years after graduation while seeking work. Over the summer, Australia announced a pathway to citizenship for Hong Kong students.

"They are trying to message certainty and flexibility to their international students, and unfortunately, we are messaging uncertainty and rigidity," said Sarah Spreitzer, a director at the American Council on Education.

There are major consequences.

International students contributed roughly \$41 billion to the American economy in 2018 school year. NAFSA estimated that since 2016, the decline of new international students cost the U.S. nearly \$12 billion and at least 65,000 jobs.

In response, college leaders formed the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration in 2017.

Cramb, the group's co-chairman, is a Scottish migrant who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Penn-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 67 of 77

sylvania. He became IIT president in 2015.

"The greatest thing to happen to me was coming here," he said. "What we are doing is taking away a richness to the education experience for everyone."

Associated Press reporter Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed. Follow Sophia Tareen on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen>.

## Trump intensifies fracking assault on Biden in Pennsylvania

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — In a late gambit to win the battleground state of Pennsylvania, President Donald Trump and his GOP allies have intensified attacks on Joe Biden over fracking, hoping to drive a wedge between the former vice president and the white, working-class voters tied to the state's booming natural gas industry.

That assault is playing out in a barrage of TV ads and conservative and right-wing websites, and is repeated at every Trump rally in the state.

It relies on a series of confusing statements from the former vice president — including remarks on the oil industry from last week's debate — to claim he intends to "ban" or end national gas extraction, although that is not the Democrat's official position.

Trump's fracking play comes as polls show the president is struggling to overtake Biden in Pennsylvania and in need of a boost from the rural and exurban white voters who helped him to a narrow victory in Pennsylvania in 2016.

It also shoots to snap the tightrope that Biden is walking between the Democratic Party's left wing, which is hostile to fossil fuels, and its bedrock blue-collar union base that is building an expanding network of gas pipelines, power plants and processing facilities in Pennsylvania.

Biden's climate change plan aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gases emissions by 2050, and does not involve banning fracking, the process formally named hydraulic fracturing that along with horizontal drilling made the United States an oil and gas superpower over the past decade.

He argues that net-zero threshold can be achieved by helping eliminate emissions from natural gas infrastructure, while redirecting federal subsidies for oil and gas to cleaner energies.

"I do rule out banning fracking because ... we need other industries to transition to get to ultimately a complete zero-emissions," Biden said in Thursday night's debate.

For his part, Trump often ridicules the science behind increasingly urgent warnings for immediate action to stave off the worst of climate damage by cutting fossil fuel emissions.

But Trump's attacks routinely cite various Biden statements — several made during the Democratic primary campaign — to muddy that position.

In one, Biden told a town hall questioner last year, "We're going to end fossil fuel." Biden's running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, meanwhile endorsed a ban during her own bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

At a recent Trump's rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, the president showed the crowd a video of various Biden comments on fracking in a bid to portray Biden as opposed to the process.

And that was days before Trump and Biden tussled over energy during the debate. After Biden noted he wanted to "transition away from the oil industry," Trump pounced.

"Basically what he is saying is, he is going to destroy the oil industry," Trump said. "Will you remember that, Texas? Will you remember that, Pennsylvania? Oklahoma? Ohio?"

Trump will return to campaign in Pennsylvania on Monday.

America First Action, a pro-Trump super PAC, ran an eight-week ad campaign for TV, the internet and mail over the summer making that claim in a pitch to the hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians who work in the industry, see their businesses benefiting or receive royalties from a well on their land.

Trump's campaign is running its own ad this fall featuring a fracking technician named "Jen" who says Biden would end fracking and "that would be the end of my job, and thousands of others." And Great

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 68 of 77

America PAC, which supports Trump, produced an ad calling Biden and Harris “fracking liars.”

The onslaught is reminiscent of Republican efforts to turn union workers away from Democrat Hillary Clinton four years ago. Clinton was hammered for saying “we’re going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business” when describing her climate plan, a comment that was used to suggest she had declared war on coal.

Still, most blue-collar unions that work in the gas fields in Pennsylvania have endorsed Biden. He has a long-standing relationship with some of them, and the endorsement is partly a reflection of their support for his infrastructure plan.

One of them — the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters — repeated Biden’s statement that he wouldn’t ban fracking in a Pittsburgh-themed digital ad that also touted Biden’s support for nuclear power and water infrastructure as new sources of union jobs.

“Joe Biden will be the most pro-union president ever,” the narrator says.

While Biden insists he does not want to ban fracking broadly, he does want to stop issuing new drilling permits on federal lands, which federal agencies say accounts for about 10% of natural gas production and 7% of oil production.

As part of a \$2 trillion plan, he also wants to make electricity production free of fossil fuel emissions by 2035 and reach net-zero carbon emissions in the U.S. by 2050 through technologies such as carbon capture sequestration.

Scientists say it is possible to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in the U.S. by 2050 without eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

But Biden’s nearer-term goal of eliminating emissions from power plants is sending a shiver through Pennsylvania’s industry because a growing fleet of natural gas-fired power plants is a big customer.

It’s not clear how many votes are being decided by Trump’s fracking claims in a contest where the vast majority of voters had already made up their minds.

The gas industry has flushed money into some local economies. But it has also inspired a backlash in other communities, most notably in Philadelphia’s suburbs, and, for many voters, it simply doesn’t rank as deciding factor in the race.

Still, in a heavily populated and heavily contested state that Trump won by just over 44,000 votes in 2016, any marginal change, no matter how slight, is significant, campaign strategists say.

Mark McManus, president of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, which has perhaps 2,000 to 2,500 members building a multibillion-dollar ethane refinery near Pittsburgh, said Biden has a record as vice president when the Obama administration “basically fracked our way out of the recession.”

Plus, McManus said he had a frank conversation with Biden about fracking.

“He assured me that organized labor would be at the table, his energy approach would be an all-of-the-above approach and he is absolutely not against fracking,” McManus said.

A Biden backer, U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb, a Pittsburgh-area Democrat who has pushed back against the party’s left wing on energy, recalled hearing concerns about Biden’s position on fracking during events at union halls and elsewhere.

But, Lamb said he is satisfied with Biden’s position on fracking and his commitment to blue-collar labor union jobs after three decades of Democrats losing clout among working-class voters in western Pennsylvania.

“He’s picking up ground,” Lamb said. “We’ll see how much he’s picked up, but I’m definitely enthusiastic that he’s out there fighting for it.”

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Follow Marc Levy on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/timelywriter](http://www.twitter.com/timelywriter).

## Spain orders nationwide curfew to stem worsening outbreak

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Buckling under the resurgence of the coronavirus in Europe, the Spanish

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 69 of 77

government on Sunday declared a national state of emergency that includes an overnight curfew in hopes of not repeating the near collapse of the country's hospitals.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said the decision to restrict free movement on the streets of Spain between 11 p.m.-6 a.m. allows exceptions for commuting to work, buying medicine, and caring for elderly and young family members. He said the curfew takes effect Sunday night and would likely remain in place for six months.

"The reality is that Europe and Spain are immersed in a second wave of the pandemic," Sánchez said during a nationwide address after meeting with his Cabinet. "The situation we are living in is extreme."

The leaders of Spain's 17 regions and two autonomous cities will have authority to modify the curfew in their territory to start between 10:00-12:00 p.m. and end between 5:00-7:00 a.m., close regional borders to travel, and limit gatherings to six people who don't live together, the prime minister said.

The curfew does not apply to Spain's Canary Islands, which were recently removed from Britain's and Germany's list of unsafe travel destinations due to the favorable trajectory of the virus on the archipelago.

With the mainland curfew, Spain is following the example of neighboring France, where the government ordered a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew for major cities and large swaths of the country this week.

Health officials have been targeting nightlife and partying as some of the main sources for the latest revival of infections.

Sánchez said he will ask Parliament's lower house this week to extend the state of emergency until May. As dictated by the Constitution, a state of emergency can last no longer than two weeks without the endorsement of the Congress of Deputies.

Spain's second nationwide emergency of the pandemic is not as restrictive as the mandatory home confinement that Sánchez ordered in March and lasted for six weeks before being gradually relaxed as the number of new confirmed cases fell.

"There is no home confinement in this state of emergency, but the more we stay at home, the safer we will be. Everyone knows what they have to do," the prime minister said Sunday.

Authorities want to avoid a second complete shutdown of the country of 47 million inhabitants to avoid dealing another heavy blow to an economy that the pandemic has plunged into recession and destroyed hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But with the infection rate gaining steam ever since it started rising again in August, health experts have clamored for action at the national level, arguing that the crisis requires more than a patchwork of regional measures.

Several regional leaders, who run Spain's decentralized health care system, had asked in recent days for the national government to declare a national state of emergency.

The state of emergency makes it easier for authorities to take swift action without having to get many types of public health restrictions approved by a judge. Some judges have rejected efforts to limit people's movements in certain regions, causing confusion among the public.

Spain this week became the first European country to surpass 1 million officially recorded COVID-19 cases. Sánchez acknowledged Friday in a nationally televised address that the true figure could be more than 3 million, due to gaps in testing and other factors.

Spain on Friday reported almost 20,000 new daily cases and 231 more deaths, taking the country's death toll in the pandemic to 34,752, but the true death toll is likely much higher. Confirmed cases are rising across the peninsula, the Balearic Islands, and Spain's two African enclaves.

Under the first state of emergency, Spain's military battalions were deployed to disinfect retirement homes and set up field hospitals. So far, this has not been necessary with Spain's retirement homes better prepared and its hospitals seeing a slower, if steady, uptick in cases.

"The loss of life must be as low as possible, but we also must protect our economy," Sánchez said.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 70 of 77

## Virus is pummeling Europe's eateries — and winter is coming

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

HEIKRUIS, Belgium (AP) — As the Friday night dinner service began earlier this month at the De Viering restaurant outside Brussels, it seemed the owners' decision to move the operation into the spacious village church to comply with coronavirus rules was paying off. The reservation book was full and the kitchen was bustling.

And then Belgium's prime minister ordered cafes, bars and restaurants to close for at least a month in the face of surging infections.

"It's another shock, of course, because — yes, all the investments are made," said chef Heidi Vanhasselt. She and her sommelier husband Christophe Claes had installed a kitchen and new toilets in the Saint Bernardus church in Heikruis, as well as committing to 10 months' rent and pouring energy into creative solutions.

Vanhasselt's frustration is Europe's as a resurgence of the virus is dealing a second blow to the continent's restaurants, which already suffered under lockdowns in the spring. From Northern Ireland and Italy to the Netherlands and France, governments have shuttered eateries or severely curtailed how they operate.

More than just jobs and revenue are at stake — restaurants lie at the heart of European life. Their closures are threatening the social fabric by shutting the places where neighbors mix, extended families gather and the seeds of new families are sown.

A restaurant remains "a place where very special moments are celebrated," said Griet Grassin of the Italian restaurant Tartufo on the outskirts of Brussels. "It's not just the food, but it's the well-being."

The governments of Italy and Spain announced new measures Sunday that are aimed at curbing spiraling infections but also detrimental to dining out.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte announced that restaurants and bars will be required to shut at 6 p.m. daily for at least a month. Most restaurants in Italy usually don't even start to serve dinner before 8 p.m. Milan has already seen protests over a local curfew that took effect Thursday.

In Spain, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez declared a national curfew from 11 p.m.-6 a.m. and said he would ask lawmakers to keep in place until May. The curfew starting Sunday night means Spaniards will have to watch the clock if they want to indulge their love for a late, leisurely meal with friends. The measure could end chances for the recovery of the country's large nightlife industry.

The reduced hours that businesses can stay open and people are allowed to be out is particularly painful since they might stretch into the Christmas holiday season, nixing everything from pre-holiday office drinks to a special New Year's meal.

When it comes to purely calories and vitamins, "of course we can live without restaurants," said food historian professor Peter Scholliers.

But, he asked: "We can live without being social? No, we can't."

Successful restaurants have always had to adapt quickly — but never has there been a challenge like this.

The European Union said the hotel and restaurant industry suffered a jaw-dropping 79.3% decline in production between February and April. Try bouncing back from that.

Summer, with its drop in COVID-19 cases and a hesitant return to travel, brought some respite, especially in coastal resorts.

But then came fall. Any giddiness that the fallout from the pandemic could somehow be contained faced the sobering reality of relentlessly rising coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. Overall, COVID-19 has killed over 250,000 people across Europe, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Leaders are now warning that things will get worse before they get better.

But many restaurant owners have bristled at the new restrictions and some are openly challenging them.

In London last week, the preeminent chef Yotam Ottolenghi banged pots on the street to protest restrictions that include earlier closing times.

"It's really hard, we've got a great industry with lots of heart," Ottolenghi said. "And there's so many people who depend on it."

If the mood of any nation is set by its stomach, surely France's is. And it is turning as sour as a rhubarb

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 71 of 77

tartlet. The streets of Paris, the culinary capital of Lyon and several other French cities were eerily empty at night during the first week of a 9 p.m. curfew scheduled to last for at least a month.

Xavier Denamur, who owns five Parisian cafes and bistros that employ around 70 workers, said the French government is unfairly punishing the industry.

"It's a catastrophic measure," he said, arguing any curfew should be pushed to at least 11 p.m. to allow for a proper dinner service.

Still, highlighting how the world is feeling its way in the near darkness, restaurant and food delivery business owner Matteo Lorenzon argued the opposite. "Having a curfew starting at 11 p.m., it's too late."

Already in September, more than 400,000 employees of restaurants and cafes in Italy, a nation of 60 million, were unemployed, according to an estimate by Fipe, the restaurant lobby group. Its prediction for the coming months was even more dire: "Hundreds of thousands of jobs risk being erased definitively."

In the Netherlands, which has one of the highest virus infection rates in Europe, more than 60 Dutch bars and restaurants sought to overturn a monthlong closure order but failed. Lawyer Simon van Zijll, representing the bars and restaurants, warned that the Dutch hospitality industry faces "a tidal wave of bankruptcies."

The first lockdown in the spring caught the owners of Tartufo, the restaurant on the outskirts of Brussels, off guard.

This time, Grassin and her husband chef Kayes Ghourabi, were ready: They will ramp up their takeaway service and even offer their own gin with Mediterranean spices. Still, income will drop by about 70% to 80%.

"We lose, but it helps the costs. The electricity, the insurance that keep on going, even in a lockdown," she said.

Across Europe, the stories are the same — of chefs thinking creatively, making something of a bad situation, showing resilience to save something they often built from scratch.

"I have a son, and I always say to my husband, 'the restaurant was our first child.' And you want to fight for it," Grassin said.

Takeout food is also a lifeline for Paolo Polli, who owned five bars and restaurants in Milan before closing four recently. His staff was cut from 60 to six. He said he made more money during the lockdown with his pizza-delivery service than when he reopened for regular service.

Down south, a balmy fall offered some reprieve, allowing restaurants to serve on outside terraces.

Despite this, in Portugal, the AHRESP restaurant association said restaurants lost more than half of their revenue. Now the chilly weather, stronger winds and rain are forcing everyone back indoors, where the virus spreads most easily.

"It will be impossible," said Artur Veloso, who manages the Risca restaurant in Carcavelos. "Winter will bring more ruin."

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Associated Press writers Barry Hatton in Lisbon, Fran D'Emilio in Rome, Andrea Rosa in Milan, Thomas Adamson in Paris, Mike Corder in The Hague, and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona contributed.

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

## UK doctors demand free meals for kids as COVID fuels hunger

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Pediatricians are urging the British government to reverse course and provide free meals for poor children during school holidays as the COVID-19 pandemic pushes more families into poverty.

Some 2,200 members of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health have written an open letter to Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson, saying they were shocked by his "refusal" to back down on the issue. The House of Commons last week rejected legislation that would have provided free meals during all school holidays from October through the Easter break.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 72 of 77

The doctors say some 4 million children live in poverty, and a third rely on free school meals. Many parents in Britain have lost their jobs or are working reduced hours during the pandemic, making it imperative to make it possible for poor children over the holidays get at least one nutritious meal a day, the doctors argue.

"Families who were previously managing are now struggling to make ends meet because of the impact of COVID-19," the doctors wrote. "It is not good enough to send them into the holiday period hoping for the best, while knowing that many will simply go hungry."

Most schools in England begin a one-week holiday on Monday.

The doctors heaped praise on Marcus Rashford, a 22-year-old star soccer player for Manchester United who has used his celebrity to highlight the issue. Rashford's campaign helped pressure Johnson's government into providing free meals during a nationwide coronavirus lockdown earlier this year, and he has gathered more than 800,000 signatures on a petition to extend the program.

Rashford has spoken movingly about depending on free school lunches as a child and was recently honored by the queen for his dedication to the issue of child hunger.

Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, who spoke for the government on Britain's Sunday morning news programs, claimed that lawmakers were taking a broader approach. He said the government has increased welfare benefits nationwide and has provided 63 million pounds (\$82 million) to local communities to help people.

"What we are looking to do is ensure that we deal with child poverty at the core, putting the structure in place that means even in school holidays, children can get access to the food that they need," he told Sky News on Sunday.

The opposition Labour Party has warned it will bring the issue back to the House of Commons if ministers do not change course in time for Christmas.

Advocates for children have been shocked by the political stalemate. The Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, said she has been both horrified and disappointed by the debate.

"We're a wealthy country, it's 2020," she told Sky News. "To have a debate about whether we should make sure that hungry and vulnerable children have enough to eat is something that is strikingly similar to something we'd expect to see in chapters of 'Oliver Twist' — a novel published in the 19th century."

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## Afghanistan claims killing an al-Qaida leader wanted by FBI

By RAHIM FAIEZ, TAMEEM AKHGAR and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan claimed Sunday it killed a top al-Qaida propagandist on an FBI most-wanted list during an operation in the country's east, showing the militant group's continued presence there as U.S. forces work to withdraw from America's longest-running war amid continued bloodshed.

The reported death of Husam Abd al-Rauf, also known by the nom de guerre Abu Muhsin al-Masri, follows weeks of violence, including a suicide bombing by the Islamic State group Saturday at an education center near Kabul that killed 24 people. Meanwhile, the Afghan government continues to fight Taliban militants even as peace talks in Qatar between the two sides take place for the first time.

The violence and al-Rauf's reported killing threaten the face-to-face peace talks and risk plunging this nation beset by decades of war into further instability. They also complicate America's efforts to withdraw, 19 years after it led an invasion targeting the Taliban for hosting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Details over the raid that led to al-Rauf's alleged death remained murky hours after Afghanistan's intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security, claimed on Twitter to have killed him in Ghazni province. It said one of its members was also killed in the operation. The agency released a photograph late Sunday afternoon it described as al-Rauf's corpse, which resembled FBI images of the militant leader.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 73 of 77

Al-Qaida did not immediately acknowledge al-Rauf's reported death. The FBI declined to comment. The U.S. military's Central Command and NATO did not respond to requests for comment.

The Afghan raid happened last week in Kunsaf, a village in Ghazni province's Andar district some 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Kabul, two government officials said.

Amanullah Kamrani, the deputy head of Ghazni's provincial council, told The Associated Press that Afghan special forces led by the intelligence agency raided Kunsaf, which he described as being under Taliban control. On the village's outskirts, they stormed an isolated home and killed seven suspected militants in a firefight, including al-Rauf, Kamrani said.

Neither Kamrani nor the intelligence agency offered details on how authorities identified al-Rauf, nor how they came to suspect he was in the village.

Wahidullah Jumazada, a spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghazni, said Afghan forces killed six suspected militants in the raid, without acknowledging al-Rauf had been killed.

Kamrani alleged, without providing evidence, that the Taliban had been offering shelter and protection to al-Rauf. The Taliban told the AP on Sunday they are investigating the incident.

If the Taliban had provided protection for al-Rauf that would violate the terms of its Feb. 29 deal with the U.S. that jump-started the Afghan peace talks. That deal saw the Taliban agree "not to cooperate with groups or individuals threatening the security of the United States and its allies," which includes al-Qaida.

The Afghan presidential palace issued a statement Sunday saying al-Rauf had been killed and warning it "proved that the threat of terrorism and the Taliban's links to terrorist networks are still in place."

"The Taliban should prove to the people, the government of Afghanistan and the international community that they are ending their links with terrorist groups, including al-Qaida," the statement said. They "should stop the war and violence and facilitate a dignified and sustainable peace in the country."

Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York filed a warrant for al-Rauf's arrest in December 2018, accusing him of providing support to a foreign terrorist organization and being part of a conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens. The FBI put him on the bureau's "Most Wanted Terrorists" list, which now includes 27 others.

The red-headed al-Rauf, believed to be born in 1958, is an Egyptian national. An al-Qaida-issued biography said he joined the mujaheddin fighters who battled the Soviet Union in 1986.

He has served for years as al-Qaida's media chief, offering audio statements and written articles backing the militant group. After years of remaining silent following the acknowledgement of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar's death, al-Rauf reemerged in 2018 in an audio statement in which he mocked President Donald Trump and those who preceded him the White House.

"I name him 'Donald T-Rambo' who tries to copy the famous American fictional character 'Rambo,' who, with only a Kalashnikov, was able to liberate the entire Afghanistan from the Soviet Union," al-Rauf said, according to the SITE Intelligence Group.

The Afghan presidential palace described al-Rauf as "al-Qaida's leader for the Indian subcontinent." The National Directorate of Security referred to al-Rauf as having a close relationship with both bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian now leading al-Qaida. It said he lived for years in hideouts in both Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan.

Meanwhile Sunday, authorities raised the death toll in Saturday's suicide attack on an education center near Kabul. The suicide bomber, who was stopped by guards from entering the center, killed 24 and wounded 57 — many of them young students.

The Islamic State group's local affiliate claimed credit for the attack in a heavily Shiite neighborhood of western Kabul's Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, saying one of its fighters used a suicide bomb vest in the assault. The Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group view Shiites as heretics and have repeatedly targeted them in attacks in Afghanistan, even after losing the territory of their so-called caliphate once spanning parts of Iraq and Syria.

Mourners later gathered on a dusty hillside to bury the youths killed by the bombing. An Afghan flag whipped in the wind above their heads as they prayed for, buried and quietly remembered those lost.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 74 of 77

"They had no guns on hand," said one mourner named Azizullah, who like many Afghans uses one name. "They wanted to study and have a bright future for themselves and the country."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

## Thai protesters rally ahead of parliamentary debate

BANGKOK (AP) — Thousands of pro-democracy protesters gathered in Thailand's capital again on Sunday, seeking to keep up pressure on the government a day before a special session of Parliament that was called to try to ease political tensions.

The rally took place at the busy Rajprasong intersection, in the heart of Bangkok's shopping district. Few protesters turned out in the first hour of the rally, but their numbers later swelled to several thousand, who listened to rude denunciations of the government in chants, speeches and even songs.

The rally was called Saturday night after Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha ignored the protesters' deadline to step down.

The protesters' core demands also include a more democratic constitution and reforms to the monarchy. Public criticism of the monarchy is unprecedented in a country where the royal institution has been considered sacrosanct.

The demonstrators charge that Prayuth, who led a coup in 2014 as the army chief, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because laws had been changed to favor a pro-military party. The protesters also say that the constitution, written and enacted under military rule, is undemocratic.

Prayuth's government last week called the special parliamentary session to seek to defuse weeks of almost daily protests. The session begins Monday and is expected to last two days.

"The only way to a lasting solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process," Prayuth said last week.

He also lifted a state of emergency that he had imposed a week earlier that made the protest rallies illegal.

The protesters were not impressed by his efforts to appease them, declaring them insincere.

They noted on social media that the points of discussion submitted by the government for debate dealt not with their concerns but were thinly disguised criticisms of the protests themselves.

They concern the risk of the coronavirus spreading at rallies, the alleged interference with a royal motorcade by a small crowd earlier this month, and illegal gatherings and the destruction of images of the royal family.

Protest organizers have called for a Monday afternoon march to the German Embassy in central Bangkok, far from the Parliament complex on the outskirts of the city.

The apparent rationale for the march is to bring attention to the protesters' contention that King Maha Vajiralongkorn spends much of his time in Germany.

Protesters' criticism of the royal institution has irked conservative Thais because the monarchy traditionally has been treated as sacrosanct.

Self-proclaimed "defenders of the monarchy" mobilized last week online and in rallies in several cities, in many cases led by local civil servants. On Wednesday, a small royalist rally in Bangkok broke into violence when a few attendees attacked anti-government student activists.

On Sunday, as many as 1,000 royalists gathered peacefully outside Parliament, vowing to stay overnight so they could make known to lawmakers in the morning their opposition to any changes in the status of the monarchy.

## Minority communities question election-year push by EPA

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Writer

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 75 of 77

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Theresa Landrum lives in southwest Detroit, where residents complain frequently about dirty air. Tree-shaded neighborhoods with schools, churches and parks lie on either side of an interstate highway and in the shadow of a sprawling oil refinery that belches soot and fumes.

Landrum, a Black retiree from General Motors and a longtime anti-pollution activist, wasn't impressed when Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler recently pledged \$200,000 to promote "community health initiatives" in her section of the city during his blitz of visits to battleground states in the presidential election campaign.

"Is this a joke?" she said. "It would take billions of dollars to fix what is wrong with our environment here. All of a sudden he's going to throw somebody a grain of sand in a community where people have been poisoned for decades?"

Under President Donald Trump, the EPA has slashed support for some programs and regulatory protections benefiting disadvantaged communities. His budgets have proposed killing or cutting funds to enforce regulations promoting environmental justice — fair treatment of racial minorities and low-income residents who live near polluting industries and are disproportionately exposed to contamination — although Congress has continued most of the spending.

Now, the agency is portraying itself as a champion of such communities — an initiative skeptics contend is more about wooing Black and Latino support as Trump seeks re-election than protecting their air and water.

Wheeler's approach amounts to "window dressing" intended to divert the attention of minority voters from the Trump administration's weak environmental protection record, said Mustafa Santiago Ali, vice president of environmental justice, climate, and community revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation.

Wheeler and other top EPA officials have fanned out nationally in recent months, particularly in swing states such as Michigan, holding news conferences to distribute grants and tout the Trump administration's record. During his latest Michigan visit Friday, he announced \$10.7 million to replace lead service lines in disadvantaged communities in Grand Rapids and Benton Harbor, and educate the public about dangers of lead-tainted drinking water.

Trump's EPA "has taken meaningful steps to improve the health and environmental conditions for Americans everywhere, especially those in low-income and under-served communities," Wheeler said Sept. 30 in Traverse City, Michigan, where he announced the \$200,000 for Detroit.

The funds will help develop strategies for notifying vulnerable residents more quickly about public health risks, including the coronavirus, EPA said.

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat whose district includes the section of Detroit targeted for the spending, described it as "an insulting drop in the bucket."

"These grants are a pitiful attempt to distract from the sky high, mounting costs of the Trump EPA's prioritizing corporate polluters over Black and brown communities," Tlaib said.

Nine other grants of the same amount were awarded this year for neighborhood and tribal projects. One in Minneapolis will provide education on lead paint dangers, asthma hazards and use of disinfectants to prevent coronavirus. Another will focus on minimizing air and water pollution during wildfires, floods and other disasters at the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Reservation in California.

In a September speech commemorating the 50th anniversary of EPA's founding, Wheeler said such efforts would be a focal point of a second Trump term. The agency would promote "community-driven environmentalism" built on restoring polluted industrial sites, better treatment of drinking water tainted with lead or chemicals, and other locally focused actions, he said.

The agency lost sight of its core mission before Trump's arrival, Wheeler said, focusing excessively on climate change to impress "foreign capitals, over the interests of communities within their own country."

But critics say the administration's spending in those communities is undercut by its rollback of environmental regulations and weak enforcement against polluters.

"It's like a doctor knowing what the root cause of a problem is but saying we're going to just deal with the symptoms and not focus on a real cure," said Ali, a former EPA senior adviser who worked on environ-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 76 of 77

mental justice for 24 years before resigning less than two months after Trump took office. "If you're not willing to strengthen existing laws and make sure people are protected, it's just sugar coating."

Academic studies have shown low-income and minority communities suffer disproportionately from pollution, partly because so many landfills, factories and other sources are located there. Wheeler acknowledged that in his speech. But he said environmental regulation sometimes makes things worse by, for example, making it hard to build new factories on contaminated sites.

The Trump administration has hampered research identifying unfair burdens on such communities while weakening standards for pollutants that hit them especially hard, such as mercury, ground-level ozone and coal ash contaminants, the Union of Concerned Scientists said in a 2019 report.

Wheeler says "environmental justice is an important concern to the agency, but his agency's actions aren't following through with his promise," said Anita Desikan, a research analyst with the nonprofit advocacy organization.

She also noted EPA's decision to cut back on enforcing key regulations for polluting industries over the summer — a move Wheeler said was necessary to help businesses take coronavirus precautions.

Wheeler defended EPA's enforcement record during his September appearance in Michigan. When proposing regulatory rollbacks, he said, the agency has offered replacements that would protect the environment in more cost-effective ways.

Southwest Detroit has been the subject of numerous air pollution and public health studies. The 250-acre Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery reached a proposed settlement with state regulators this summer for 10 air quality violations. The area also has a coal-fired power plant, steel mills and other industrial sites.

An hour's drive north is Flint, a majority Black city of nearly 100,000 still recovering from lead contamination of its drinking water that prompted \$100 million in federal assistance for replacing service lines and other infrastructure. Karen Weaver, who was mayor at the height of the crisis, said the problem might have been avoided if governments had given due regard to environmental justice.

"It seems late to be having this conversation, but of course better late than never," Weaver said, adding that the city could have used one of the \$200,000 grants.

Landrum, the Detroit activist and a member of the Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, said the Trump administration must do more than provide modest grants and make promises to earn credibility with environmentally degraded communities.

"Environmental racism, systemic racism, exists in Detroit and Michigan and throughout the U.S.," Landrum said. "But people don't want to see."

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Associated Press reporter Ellen Knickmeyer in Oklahoma City contributed to this story.

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Follow John Flesher on Twitter: @johnflesher

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 26, the 300th day of 2020. There are 66 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 26th, 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1861, the legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. (The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.)

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Arizona, as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's gang were killed; Earp's brothers and Holliday were wounded.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 115 ~ 77 of 77

In 1902, women's rights pioneer Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in New York at age 86.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tay) Gulf ended in a major Allied victory over Japanese forces, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

In 1975, Anwar Sadat became the first Egyptian president to pay an official visit to the United States.

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1980, Israeli President Yitzhak Navon became the first Israeli head of state to visit Egypt.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

In 2002, a hostage siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater ended with 129 of the 800-plus captives dead, most from a knockout gas used by Russian special forces who stormed the theater; 41 rebels also died.

Ten years ago: Saddam Hussein's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, was sentenced to death for persecuting members of Shiite religious parties under the former regime. (The sentence was never carried out; Aziz died of a heart attack in June 2015.) Iran began loading fuel into the core of its first nuclear power plant. A day after an earthquake sparked a deadly tsunami, Indonesia saw another natural disaster as Mount Merapi (meh-RAH'-pee) began erupting explosively, resulting in hundreds of deaths in the weeks that followed.

Five years ago: A 7.5-magnitude quake in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan caused extensive damage in neighboring Pakistan and killed around 400 people. The World Health Organization, throwing its global weight behind years of experts' warnings, declared that processed meats raised the risk of colon and stomach cancer and that red meat was probably harmful, too.

One year ago: Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi blew himself up during a raid by U.S. special operations forces on his compound in Syria. A Northern California blaze forced evacuation orders and warnings for nearly all of Sonoma County; forecasts of strong winds prompted additional blackouts in the event of damage to power lines. Hollywood producer Robert Evans, who at Paramount Pictures had backed such films as "Chinatown" and "The Godfather," died at the age of 89. A homemade device that was meant to discharge colorful powder at a "gender reveal" party to celebrate an upcoming birth for an Iowa family instead exploded like a pipe bomb; a 56-year-old relative was killed when she was hit by debris.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jaclyn Smith is 75. TV host Pat Sajak is 74. Hillary Rodham Clinton is 73. Musician Bootsy Collins is 69. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 68. Rock musician David Was is 68. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52's) is 67. Actor Lauren Tewes is 67. Actor D.W. Moffett is 66. Actor-singer Rita Wilson is 64. Actor Patrick Breen is 60. Actor Dylan McDermott is 59. Actor Cary Elwes is 58. Singer Natalie Merchant is 57. Actor Steve Valentine is 54. Country singer Keith Urban is 53. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 52. Actor Rosemarie DeWitt is 49. Actor Anthony Rapp is 49. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 47. TV news correspondent Paula Faris is 45. Actor Lennon Parham is 45. Actor Florence Kasumba is 44. Actor Hal Ozsan is 44. Actor Jon Heder is 43. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 42. Actor Jonathan Chase is 41. Actor Folake Olowofoyeku (foh-LAH'-kay oh-low-wow-foh-YAY'-koo) is 37. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 36. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 34. Actor Beulah Koale (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 29.