

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 1 of 73

- [1- Service Notice: Alan Townsend](#)
- [2- Farmers Encouraged to Keep the Stubble During No-Till November](#)
- [3- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [5- Flu Clinic for children to be held today](#)
- [6- Trump Administration Invests \\$38.6 Million in Community Facilities in Rural South Dakota Communities](#)
- [7- Ag Loan Rates](#)
- [8- Mike Nehls for County Commission](#)
- [8- More of the tower arrives](#)
- [9- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [10- October 29th 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](#)

*"Candy is childhood, the best and bright moments you wish could have lasted forever."*

*-Dylan Lauren*



*Chicken Soup for the Soul*

## Service Notice: Alan Townsend

Services for Alan Townsend, 58, of Conde will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, November 2nd at the Groton United Methodist Church. Rev. Brandon Dunham will officiate. Burial will follow in Scotland Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Sunday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Alan passed away Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at his residence in Conde.



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

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

## Farmers Encouraged to Keep the Stubble During No-Till November

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS), Huron, S.D., October 29, 2020– NRCS is encouraging South Dakota farmers to “keep the stubble” on their harvested crop fields and improve soil health during No-Till November.

First launched in 2017, the NRCS project is mirrored after the national cancer awareness No Shave November campaign that encourages people not to shave during the entire month. The NRCS campaign encourages farmers to keep tillage equipment in their machine sheds this fall and keep the crop stubble on their fields. The campaign has reached more than 1.5 million people through Twitter and local media since 2017.

“No-till farming is a cornerstone soil health conservation practice, which also promotes water quality while saving farmers time and money,” said South Dakota NRCS State Conservationist Jeff Zimprich. “One of the first soil health principles is ‘do not disturb’. This campaign is a fun way to remind farmers about the important relationship between tillage and soil health. Utilizing cover crops and leaving residues on the soil surface improve soil health while increasing soil biological activity, providing erosion control and adding beneficial nutrients.”

Terry and Mary Ness Terry Ness has been farming in central South Dakota for 42 years. He describes the changes he and his wife Mary have made to improve their soil health, have also helped give their soils more resilience. After utilizing tillage for the first 14 years of his career, he switched completely to a no-till system and noticed that many of the challenges they had faced in the past became easier to overcome. To see Terry and Mary's full Profile in Soil Health video feature, visit: [bit.ly/TerryNess](https://bit.ly/TerryNess).

“With all these good things I’m doing, you can see it in the insect population, the bird population - healthy soil makes healthy animals, makes healthy food - all this ties together.”

-Terry Ness

### More Information

To learn more about soil health and no-till in South Dakota, visit your nearest NRCS service center, visit [bit.ly/contactnrcssd](https://bit.ly/contactnrcssd), or ask questions from a local soil health mentor! E-mail [Rachel.Giles@usda.gov](mailto:Rachel.Giles@usda.gov) to receive a digital copy of the "Building Connections" SD soil health mentor network directory, or have one mailed to you at no cost.

## #249 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We're looking worse by the day. 89,200 new cases today, a full 1% increase in total cases to 9,017,400. So we hit that nine million mark in record time. For those who track these things, here's how long it took to add each million cases:

April 28 – 1 million – 98 days  
June 11 – 2 million – 44 days  
July 8 – 3 million – 27 days  
July 23 – 4 million – 15 days  
August 9 – 5 million – 17 days  
August 31 – 6 million – 22 days  
September 24 – 7 million – 24 days  
October 15 – 8 million – 21 days  
October 29 – 9 million - 14 days

Twelve states reported record numbers of new cases today. Twenty-two reported a record seven-day average. New cases are increasing in 42 states. Hospitalizations are at their highest in two months. Utah is in particular trouble, approaching a "crisis of care," according to the officials. Wisconsin ICUs are approaching capacity as the state's seven-day average increased 450% in two months and the test positivity rate hangs around 27%. Montana reports nearly 100% increase in hospitalizations since October 3. A sad note today: The Marshall Islands, one of the last places on earth free of the virus, has its first two cases in arriving travelers.

There were 1005 deaths reported, our second consecutive day over 1000 and a 0.4% increase to 228,672. South Dakota and Wyoming reported a record number of deaths today. Idaho, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin had record seven-day averages. We had to know that was coming.

I did run across a nice summary of the current state of knowledge about this virus that's causing so much trouble, and I'll share a synopsis here:

(1) The virus doesn't care who you are. It doesn't vote, it can't see your bank account, and it's not fussy about your personality. Anyone can get it. Anyone can get really sick too although some of us are more likely than others to do so.

(2) Testing isn't 100%. False negatives happen, so just because you tested negative, you can't go blithely coughing all over the place. Assume, if you have symptoms, that you're infected. (And while you're at it, if you have no symptoms, assume you could be infected and don't go blithely breathing all over people either.)

(3) Respiratory spread is the most common means of transmission. Through the air. Via breathing. Ventilation, airflow, and space are your friends; the indoors, still air, and proximity are not. People without symptoms can spread it.

(4) Masks work. Period. Wear one, and be sure it covers your nose too.

(5) Covid-19 has many symptoms, some typical, some atypical. Most folks have fever, cough, shortness of breath. Some have headache, fatigue, gastrointestinal complaints, rashes, and other things. Sudden loss of taste and smell is very indicative, but not universal.

(6) Some people continue to have symptoms for many months. There appear to be a whole lot of these people.

(7) We've made a lot of progress on therapies. This has come a long way in a short time, and there is plenty of work ongoing. That said, there are no cures; don't believe people trying to sell you one.

(8) The mortality rate in October is a lot lower than it was in March and April because we've learned a lot about managing care for patients who are very ill. This is, however, still a dangerous disease.

(9) Covid-19 isn't going away any time soon.

(10) We still have a lot to learn. Many smart people are working on that every day.

For those of us (me too) who've been complaining about the disruption we're experiencing in our lives, I want to introduce you to Miriam Schreiber. This 88-year-old Holocaust survivor knows from disruption.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 4 of 73

She was all set to start first grade in the fall of 1939 when her life changed, literally in minutes. When the war started in her native Poland, she and her family fled their village ahead of the Nazis and spent months hiding, running from village to village, forest to forest, always in a panic. She said, "We were on the run all the time and we didn't know where to turn. We were always cold and always hungry. It was horrible. It was chaos." And to no avail; they were captured and transported to a slave labor camp in Siberia.

For six years in the camp Schreiber, still a child, watched family members freeze and starve to death. Her grandfather lay dead next to her for three days before they were able to bury him under the snow. She recalls, "It's hard to describe the suffering." It was six months after the war ended before the camp was liberated. They were moved to a displaced persons camp in Germany where they faced continued discrimination. It was 1948 when she was finally able to leave Germany. She was 15 years old, leaving behind a lost childhood. By then she had met and married her husband, Saul, also a displaced survivor.

They spent three years in Israel. She said, "We needed to rebuild our lives in whatever way we could." Having a child gave them hope for the future. They spent time again in a displaced persons camp and moved around some before finally making their way to the United States in 1960. They had a second child—more hope. "Saul worked in a chicken market and I went to work in a bakery, making 99 cents an hour." They focused on making enough money so their sons could go to school, something Miriam had never been able to do. The sacrifices paid off: Son, Bernie, who was a teacher until his retirement, said, "We became successful because of my parents. My brother Bob was able to buy and build his own business successfully. I credit my parents, but especially my mother, for her dogged determination." There were grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

What there never was for Schreiber is schooling; she has never spent a day in school. No graduation, no diploma. Now, don't get me wrong; there was education. She speaks six languages. Polish and Yiddish were learned as a child; but she taught herself English, German, Hebrew, and Swedish. "I educated myself. I read books day and night. I still do." But no formal education. She says, "It has been a profound regret of mine, all my life."

A social worker at Jewish Family Services where Schreiber now lives, Erica Kapiloff, recalls, "From the first time I met Miriam, she told me how disappointed she was to have never had a formal education. Not having a degree has always been a thorn in her side." Kapiloff decided to see what she could do about that last and got in touch with the New England Jewish Academy to ask whether they would consider presenting her with an honorary diploma. The school's principal left the decision to the seniors who would be sharing their graduation with her if the plan proceeded. So one day last fall, a group of them met with Schreiber in her home. She told them her story from the beginning. And when they went back to the school, a class meeting quickly gave the expected result.

Then the pandemic hit. (And I'm trying to remember how many times I've written that phrase in these updates—quite a few, I know.) There was only a virtual graduation ceremony this spring. Eventually though, arrangements were made for a safe ceremony, and on August 16, Schreiber, clad in cap and gown, walked to the lectern with Pomp and Circumstance playing in the background and one of those seniors who visited her home last fall presented her with her high school diploma.

One of those present said, "There's no greater sign of how she won after a lifetime of struggle. That seems to be Schreiber's take on things too. She recalls, "When I finally got the diploma, I kissed it. I just couldn't believe it was mine."

Next time I get a little chafed about something I want to do and can't because of this damned pandemic, I'm going to remind myself of Miriam Schreiber. Next time I start feeling sorry for kids who are missing a traditional Halloween or a school program or a basketball game, I'm going to remember an entire lost childhood—and all the other kids in the world today who've had their childhoods stolen too. And then I'm going to sit down and shut up, right before I go to work making of my life what I can under the circumstances.

Take care. We'll talk again.

## Flu Clinic for children to be held today

The Aberdeen Point of Dispensing (POD) is offering free seasonal influenza vaccine to all children 6 months through 18 years of age and college/university students.

The free flu clinic for children will be held at the Aberdeen Civic Arena (203 S Washington St, Aberdeen, SD 57401) on Friday, October 30th, 2020 from 3:30 to 6:00PM. The state is supplying the vaccine free of charge and there will be no administration fee at this vaccination clinic.

Parent/guardian consent is required for anyone under the age of 18.

Vaccinating children helps protect them from serious influenza illness and complications and decreases the spread of influenza in the community as children are often the biggest spreaders of influenza to adults and other children.

Based on a child's history of receiving flu vaccine in the past several years, children under the age of 9 years may need 2 doses of vaccine this year separated by 4 weeks. The Aberdeen POD will be providing 1st doses only on Oct. 30th. Please check with your doctor's office to determine whether your child needs an additional dose.

Please do NOT attend if on the day of the clinic:

You have been exposed within the last 2 weeks of an individual who is positive for COVID19,

You are positive for COVID19 and currently still in isolation,

You are sick including but limited to:

Fever and/or chills

New cough, shortness of breath, and/or difficulty breathing

New headaches, muscle/body aches, and/or unusual fatigue

New loss of taste/smell

Sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Aberdeen is one of 30 POD sites organized by the state to quickly get medications to a large population in an emergency. The POD sites receive funding from the South Dakota Department of Health through its federal preparedness grants. The free flu clinic for children and university students will serve as a test/exercise of the Aberdeen Area POD Plan.

We ask that you bring the 2020-2021 flu consent form completed to move through the line quickly. Please review the Vaccine Information Statement carefully and keep for future reference prior to completing the consent form.

Forms can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m6YRNGpZJcWsiDoiAPVm1qlx127IWA dB?usp=sharing>

Please contact JoAnn Paulson, Aberdeen Area Point of Dispensing (POD) Consultant at 605-881-9245 or [jpaulconsult@gmail.com](mailto:jpaulconsult@gmail.com) with any questions about the free flu vaccination clinic.

## Trump Administration Invests \$38.6 Million in Community Facilities in Rural South Dakota Communities

Health Clinics and Public Safety Facilities Will Benefit 23,480 South Dakota Residents

HURON, SD, Oct. 29, 2020 – The Trump Administration announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$38,614,000 to improve critical community facilities to benefit 23,480 rural South Dakota residents.

"The funding packages announced today are centered around safety and providing essential services in rural communities. We are proud to make these important investments in rural South Dakota," said USDA Rural Development South Dakota State Director Julie Gross. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA continues to be a strong partner to rural communities, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

Background:

Federal funding is being awarded through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program. These investments will be for such purposes as to build or upgrade clinics and public safety facilities. South Dakota projects include:

\* City of Faith will use a \$30,000 loan and a \$30,000 grant to purchase a used pumper truck for the City of Faith Fire Department. This truck is an upgrade from existing equipment at the end of its useful life.

\* Vale Fire Department will use a \$40,000 loan and a \$30,000 grant to assist the Vale Fire Department in purchasing a type 6 brush truck to provide fire and emergency services throughout a 170-square-mile area.

\* City of Bowdle will use a \$255,000 loan to finance improvements for road infrastructure. The city will replace three blocks of street surface along Main Street. These improvements will help alleviate road breakup due to heavy traffic and will provide improved traffic flow for local residents and agricultural producers as the road is a main route to the local elevator. Local and state funds will be used in conjunction with Rural Development funding in order to accomplish the enhancements and provide a more unified sewer collection system for this rural South Dakota community.

\* Lake Andes-Ravinia Fire Protection will use a \$9,000 loan to replace four sets of fire protection gear, which have outlived their useful life. They are also replacing an infrared camera. The District is located in and around Lake Andes and Ravinia, Charles Mix County. This investment will improve the efficiency and delivery of fire protection services throughout the District's service area.

\* City of Whitewood will use a \$628,000 loan to help the city make needed renovations to Laurel and Fillmore Streets. Project details include replacement of the sanitary sewer line, water service lines, storm sewer, resurfacing of the road, and various sidewalk improvements. The federal funding is leveraged with funds from the South Dakota Department of Transportation and a Community Development Block Grant issued by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

\* Mobridge Regional Hospital will use a \$37,592,000 loan to finance improvements to the hospital. The hospital will renovate and expand their facility in order to enhance patient care, improve employee workflow and optimize operational efficiency. Local funds will be used in conjunction with a Rural Development Direct loan of \$30,074,000 and a Rural Development Guaranteed loan of \$7,518,000 to fund the facility upgrade and provide for a high level of patient care for this rural South Dakota community.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

## Ag Loan Rates

by Bruce Shultz

**Vice-President National Farmers Organization**

There are two things every farmer I know appreciates, harvesting a good crop and making a profit while doing it. While we are at the whims of nature for the quality and quantity of the crops, profitability is where we must have a say. Without profitability, family farms cannot repay their loans, take care of their families or contribute to their communities.

The current farm bill has about three years left, and the U.S. Congress will be starting work on the next bill in about a year. This is the time when agricultural producers should plan what we want and must have in the next farm bill. If we want to raise the price of grains, we should ask Congress to modify USDA's loan policy for crops. Higher grain prices will eventually lead to higher prices for meat and dairy products.

First, I propose that loan repayment funds should remain with USDA. The current system funnels loan repayments straight into the general fund. It is logical that those loan repayment funds remain with USDA, because Congress allocates a budget each year for the loan program. By doing so, the fund would grow over time, because of interest accumulation, and this line item would not have to be addressed every farm bill. Farmers would act as one another's bankers, with USDA acting as the intermediary.

Second, the time frame for loan repayment should be extended. Currently, loans must be paid back within nine months. The payback schedule should be longer, perhaps 18 months. This would allow the next year's harvest to be completed. Presently, grain companies know loans are due just ahead of harvest. They have no incentive to raise prices, which puts them in position of financial power over producers. These multinational companies only have to wait and let the grain come in because farmers need to repay those loans.

Extending the loan period would allow farmers to wait until the second crop year harvest to sell, resulting in less grain funneled into the market during the first crop year. Grain companies would then be motivated to pay more than the loan rate to convince farmers to sell. This should move markets up and put more dollars in farmers' pockets.

Third, Loan Deficiency Payments should be eliminated. Currently, farmers are put in a position to accept the price a grain company offers them, with the idea they will be subsidized by USDA for grain sold at a price below the loan rate. LDPs sound like a great way to make sure farmers are staying profitable. However, this is not always the case. We must develop a formula for family farms to be profitable, free of gimmick-laden approaches. Producers would rather receive honest buyer prices for their products instead of government subsidies. Making the changes I suggest will reduce farm subsidies. This will save U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

The general public dislikes corporate welfare. Raising loan rates will force grain companies to pay fair prices. Right now, the system pays farmers, but only because multinational companies refuse to pay a fair price to them. They understand politicians will bail out producers. Even though payments go directly to farmers, voters consider it corporate welfare.

Politicians have allowed this system of under-payment to family farmers to grow worse through the years. The practice must stop. We must ensure the next farm bill contains legislation allowing a profitable family farm system. Then farmers can produce the food and fiber this country needs to be secure, and multinational corporations pay what the grain is truly worth.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 8 of 73



- ✓ 30 year law enforcement veteran with city and county government experience
- ✓ Progressive thinker/ Conservative spender
- ✓ Common sense approach to solving issues



#### I pledge

- ✓ to put taxpayers first by no wasteful spending
- ✓ to increase transparency to taxpayers
- ✓ to maintain roads and bridges
- ✓ to the creation of a criminal justice task force addressing Meth, Opioid and other drug addictions

*Your vote will be much appreciated!*



Vote with an absentee ballot!



Representation from eastern Brown County is long overdue! (35 years)

**Vote for Michael Nehls for Brown County Commission**  
(your vote **only** for Mike could make a difference)

Paid for by the committee to elect Mike Nehls to Brown County Commission



Another section to the water tower was delivered on Thursday. The main column is pictured on the left. Also dropped off was the pipe for water delivery that will be installed inside the column. That bundle is located to the right in the photo. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 9 of 73

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27
Minnesota	125,531	126,591	128,152	129,863	132,122	133,802	135,372
Nebraska	59,409	60,308	61,285	62,510	63,215	63,797	64,499
Montana	24,093		25,640	26,503	27,142	27,880	28,501
Colorado	87,582	88,849	90,222	91,572	93,400	95,089	97,300
Wyoming	8,070	8,305	8,537	8,918	9,177	9,396	9,783
North Dakota	33,666	34,165	35,052	35,939	36,874	37,719	38,241
South Dakota	33,836	34,031	34,977	36,109	36,972	37,979	38,504
United States	8,275,093	8,338,413	8,411,259	8,497,011	8,578,175	8,636,995	8,705,127
US Deaths	221,083	222,220	223,059	224,005	224,903	225,239	225,739
Minnesota	+1,092	+1,060	+1,561	+1,711	+2,259	+1,680	+1,570
Nebraska	+592	+899	+977	+1,225	+705	+582	+702
Montana	+703		+1,547	+863	+639	+738	+621
Colorado	+1,208	+1,267	+1,373	+1,350	+1,828	+1,689	+2,211
Wyoming	+146	+235	+232	+381	+259	+219	+387
North Dakota	1,036	+516	+1,038	+886	+935	+851	+527
South Dakota	+562	+558	+948	+1,132	+852	+1017	+525
United States	+59,515	+63,320	+72,846	+85,752	+81,164	+58,820	+68,132
US Deaths	+949	+1,137	+839	+946	+898	+336	+500
	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30				
Minnesota	137,536	139,444	142,311				
Nebraska	65,376	66,545	68,150				
Montana	29,346	29,966	30,853				
Colorado	98,733	100,208	102,014				
Wyoming	10,035	10,288	10,589				
North Dakota	39,130	39,907	41,130				
South Dakota	39,494	40,589	41,507				
United States	8,779,794	8,859,432	8,947,862				
US Deaths	226,728	227,703	228,675				
Minnesota	+2,164	1,908	+2,867				
Nebraska	+877	1,169	+1,605				
Montana	+845	+620	+887				
Colorado	+1,433	1,475	+1,806				
Wyoming	+252	+253	+301				
North Dakota	+896	+781	1,222				
South Dakota	+984	+1,095	+918				
United States	+74,667	+79,638	+88,430				
US Deaths	+989	+975	+972				

## October 29th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

The numbers have no where to go but up. That has been the trend and I don't see any reason for them coming down. As far as we continue on our current way of life, we will have to live with these increasing numbers. It's just the way it is. You remember when 250 was a high number, then 500 was a high number, then 1000 was a high number. It won't be long and 1,000 will be like a good number. We were at 918 today with a record 19 deaths in South Dakota and North Dakota had 14.

Deuel and Sanborn counties each recorded their first deaths. Turner had 5 deaths while Minnehaha had 3, Lincoln 2 and having 1 each were Beadle, Brown, Codington, Davison, Hughes, Roberts and Walworth. There were 11 females and 8 males. Twelve were in the 80+ age group, 3 in their 70s, 3 in their 60s and 1 in their 50s.

Lets take a look at the case numbers by age group to see if we see something there. Under 9 was 37, 10-19 was 90, 20s-169, 30s-165, 40s-143, 50s-159, 60s-129, 70s-54, 80s-54. Nothing special here - they are the usual numbers so no age group is exploding with high numbers. The positivity rate in South Dakota reached a high of 23.4 percent in today's numbers. Those currently hospitalized increased by just 1 today.

#### Brown County:

Total Positive: +19 (2,026) Positivity Rate: 11.9%

Total Tests: +159 (17,719)

Recovered: +16 (1,640)

Active Cases: +2 (388)

Ever Hospitalized: +1 (110)

Deaths: +1 (5)

Percent Recovered: 80.9

#### South Dakota:

Positive: +918 (41,507 total) Positivity Rate: 23.4%

Total Tests: 3,924 (419,613 total)

Hospitalized: +57 (2,602 total). 413 currently hospitalized +1)

Deaths: +19 (403 total)

Recovered: +452 (30,135 total)

Active Cases: +529 (12,462)

Percent Recovered: 72.6%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 15% Covid, 55% Non-Covid, 30% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 24% Covid, 40% Non-Covid, 36% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 8% Covid, 21% Non-Covid, 72% Available

Brown (5): +19 positive, +16 recovered (388 active cases)

Clark: +4 positive, +2 recovered (56 active cases)

Clay (8): +12 positive, +4 recovered (169 active cases)

Codington (12): +23 positive, +14 recovered (342 active cases)

Davison (9): +42 positive, +9 recovered (356 active cases)

Day (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (38 active cases)

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

Faulk (1): +12 positive, +7 recovered (79 active cases)

Grant (2): +1 positive, +14 recovered (67 active cases)

Hanson (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (35 active cases)

Hughes (7): +8 positive, +4 recovered (165 active cases)

Lawrence (6): +29 positive, +19 recovered (294 active cases)

Lincoln (20): +71 positive, +26 recovered (847 active cases)

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

McCook (1): +16 positive, +4 recovered (83 active cases)

McPherson: +3 positive, +2 recovery (19 active case)

Minnehaha (110): +214 positive, +84 recovered (3075 active cases)

Potter: +4 positive, +1 recovered (32 active cases)

Roberts (5): +6 positive, +1 recovered (75 active cases)

Spink (1): +6 positive, +2 recovered (90 active cases)

Walworth (5): +3 positive, +4 recovered (72 active cases)

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

COVID-19 Daily Report, October 29:

- 11.5% rolling 14-day positivity
- 1,222 new positives
- 7,822 susceptible test encounters
- 184 currently hospitalized (+ 6)
- 6,771 active cases (+ 524)
- 499 total deaths (+ 11)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 11 of 73

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	180	127	703	0	Substantial	16.67%
Beadle	1290	956	3958	14	Substantial	22.32%
Bennett	187	112	946	5	Substantial	14.36%
Bon Homme	950	200	1608	1	Substantial	54.53%
Brookings	1466	1075	6399	5	Substantial	21.65%
Brown	2033	1640	8676	5	Substantial	19.69%
Brule	292	196	1398	2	Substantial	37.09%
Buffalo	254	216	809	4	Substantial	30.70%
Butte	368	196	2099	3	Substantial	23.05%
Campbell	75	48	160	1	Moderate	17.86%
Charles Mix	398	272	2987	0	Substantial	12.03%
Clark	118	62	673	0	Substantial	18.30%
Clay	829	652	3331	8	Substantial	22.08%
Codington	1502	1148	6409	13	Substantial	20.86%
Corson	206	130	770	1	Substantial	56.06%
Custer	316	246	1718	3	Substantial	26.02%
Davison	957	592	4489	9	Substantial	19.09%
Day	160	120	1212	2	Substantial	26.67%
Deuel	189	139	789	1	Substantial	26.73%
Dewey	330	214	3364	0	Substantial	13.72%
Douglas	165	117	699	4	Substantial	8.13%
Edmunds	144	112	738	1	Substantial	5.83%
Fall River	210	145	1796	6	Substantial	19.53%
Faulk	218	138	517	1	Substantial	29.41%
Grant	305	236	1487	2	Substantial	10.63%
Gregory	233	158	802	10	Substantial	26.05%
Haakon	98	51	419	1	Substantial	9.71%
Hamlin	199	151	1218	0	Substantial	16.20%
Hand	131	77	574	1	Substantial	36.25%
Hanson	96	60	451	1	Substantial	30.30%
Harding	56	23	110	0	Substantial	52.00%
Hughes	854	682	3788	7	Substantial	17.08%
Hutchinson	239	165	1578	2	Substantial	10.08%

# Groton Daily Independent

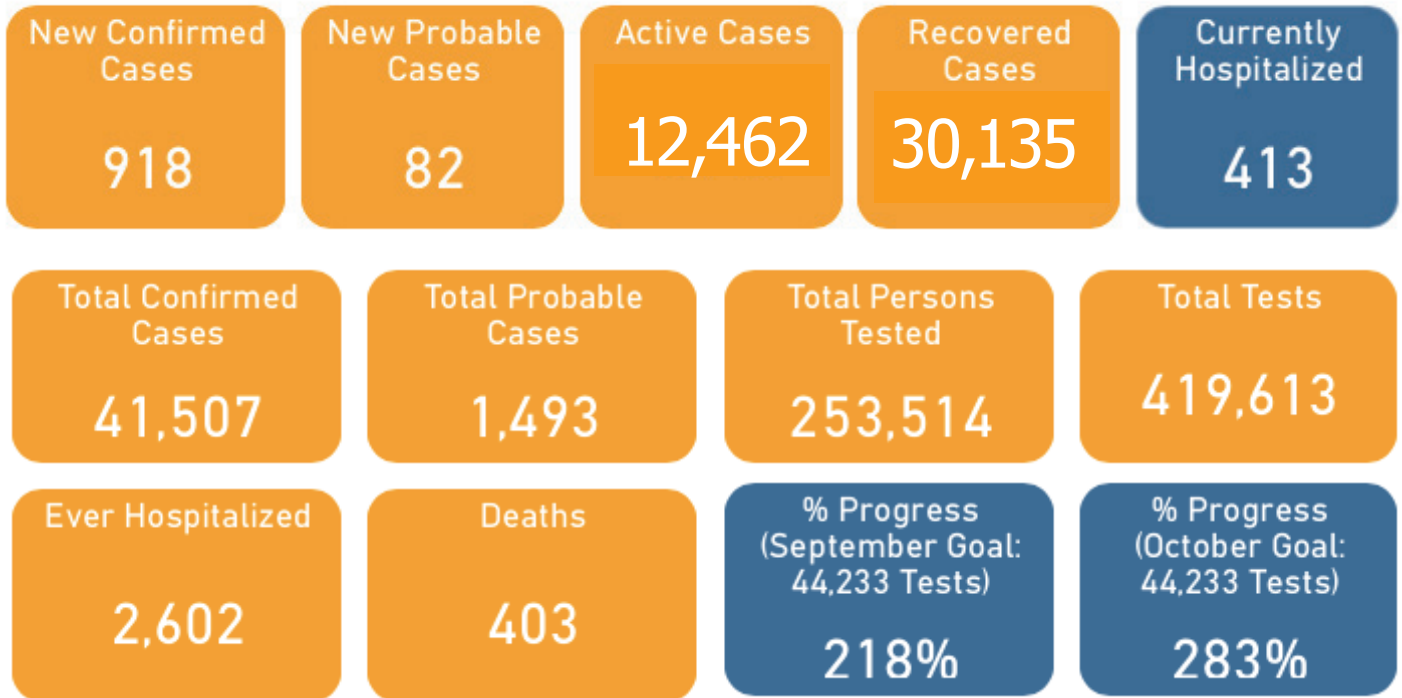
Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 12 of 73

Hyde	44	32	298	0	Moderate	25.81%
Jackson	126	73	767	1	Substantial	23.91%
Jerauld	162	131	383	12	Minimal	4.76%
Jones	32	27	128	0	Moderate	22.73%
Kingsbury	191	112	1043	2	Substantial	11.58%
Lake	389	267	1874	9	Substantial	28.24%
Lawrence	925	625	5465	6	Substantial	23.39%
Lincoln	2830	1963	13227	20	Substantial	24.91%
Lyman	277	205	1417	5	Substantial	24.85%
Marshall	65	50	769	1	Moderate	13.33%
McCook	250	166	1092	1	Substantial	15.74%
McPherson	72	53	404	0	Moderate	6.33%
Meade	962	740	5094	10	Substantial	18.78%
Mellette	83	59	566	1	Substantial	44.44%
Miner	142	78	422	1	Substantial	21.57%
Minnehaha	11495	8310	52213	110	Substantial	22.14%
Moody	219	140	1092	2	Substantial	35.85%
Oglala Lakota	953	452	5541	6	Substantial	28.08%
Pennington	4466	3237	25020	49	Substantial	18.51%
Perkins	80	53	471	0	Substantial	20.34%
Potter	107	75	609	0	Substantial	8.44%
Roberts	348	268	3177	5	Substantial	25.49%
Sanborn	102	61	437	1	Substantial	26.32%
Spink	278	187	1664	1	Substantial	15.88%
Stanley	92	69	525	0	Substantial	21.95%
Sully	41	34	170	0	Moderate	16.00%
Todd	469	322	3359	6	Substantial	31.68%
Tripp	271	222	1147	2	Substantial	13.41%
Turner	483	286	1833	16	Substantial	17.91%
Union	758	564	4092	11	Substantial	15.70%
Walworth	271	194	1292	5	Substantial	11.18%
Yankton	876	555	5879	5	Substantial	20.13%
Ziebach	93	69	561	2	Moderate	18.92%
Unassigned	0	0	1808	0		

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 13 of 73

## South Dakota



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

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1327	0
10-19 years	4524	0
20-29 years	8887	2
30-39 years	7243	7
40-49 years	6082	12
50-59 years	6081	32
60-69 years	4681	57
70-79 years	2385	76
80+ years	1790	217

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	22098	190
Male	20902	213

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 14 of 73

## Brown County



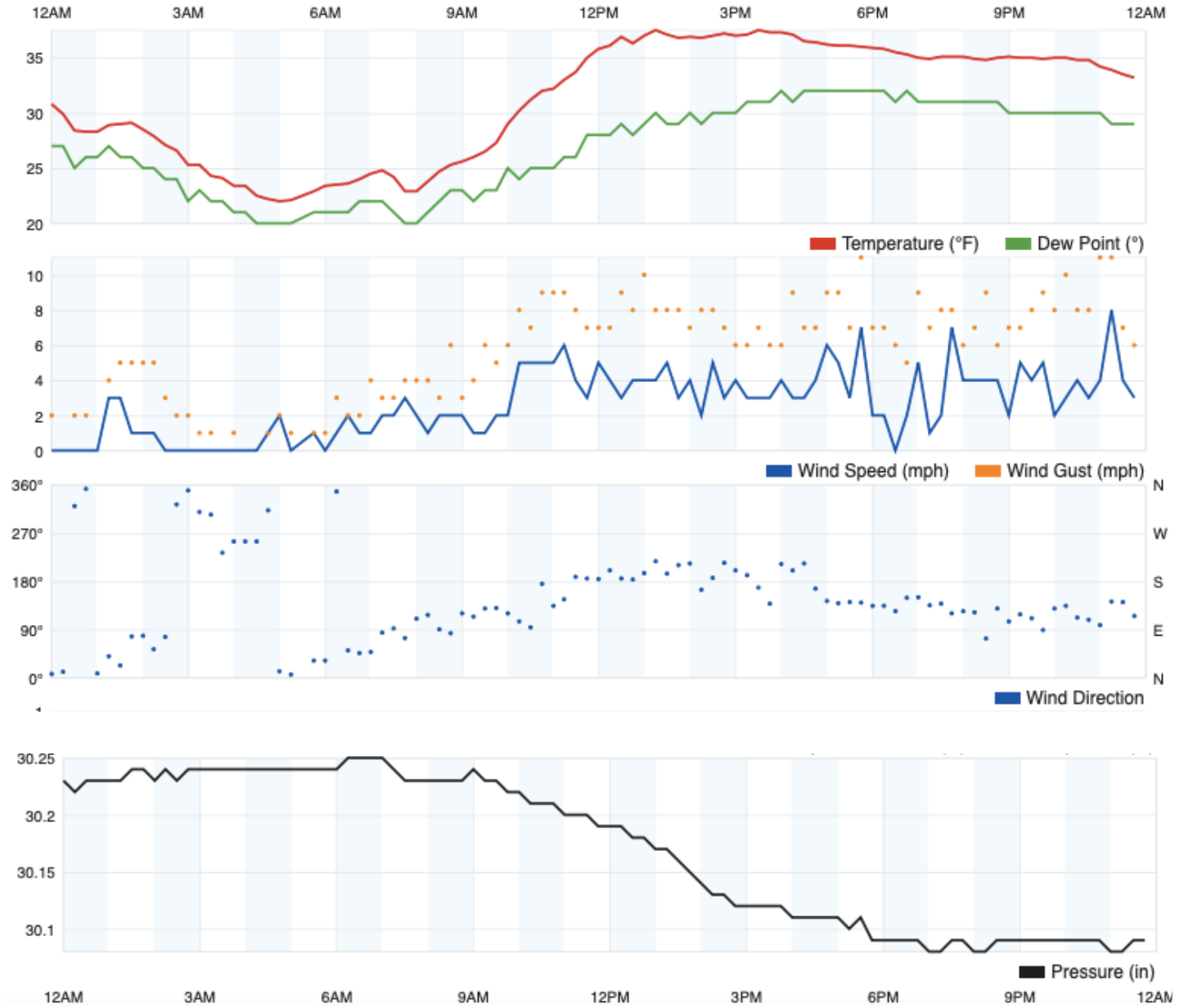
## Day County



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 15 of 73

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 16 of 73

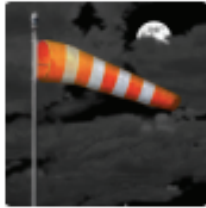
Today



Patchy Fog  
then Partly  
Sunny

High: 38 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy  
and Breezy

Low: 33 °F

Saturday



Mostly Cloudy  
then Mostly  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 45 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear  
and Blustery  
then Mostly  
Clear

Low: 21 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 39 °F

## Remaining Cool Today

Frontal Passage Saturday – Strong Northwesterly Winds

Today  
38 - 55



Warmest  
S/W

Saturday  
42 - 52



NW 30-40 mph

Sunday  
36 - 46



Cooler

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 10/30/2020 4:44 AM Central



Low pressure will continue to pull away from the region today. A mix of sun and clouds are expected with more sun in the south and more clouds to the north and east. Temperatures will remain cool for this time of year. A strong low pressure system will approach the region for the start of the weekend. A cold front will sweep through on Saturday with increasing northwesterly winds behind the front during the day. Wind gusts in excess of 40 to 50 mph will be possible through late Saturday afternoon. Cooler and less windy conditions will move in to round out the weekend on Sunday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 17 of 73

## Today in Weather History

October 30, 1943: Snow fell across much of central and north central South Dakota on this date in 1943. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Timber Lake, 4 inches at Murdo, 5 inches at Mobridge, and 7 inches at Kennebec and Pierre.

October 30, 1950: Much above normal temperatures occurred across the entire area of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record highs were mostly in the 80s across the area. The records were 78 degrees at Sisseton, 80 degrees at Wheaton, 85 degrees at Watertown and Aberdeen, 86 degrees at Mobridge, 88 degrees at Pierre, and a hot 91 degrees at Kennebec.

1925 - Nashville, TN, was blanketed with an inch of snow, their earliest measurable snow of record. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - The Donora, PA, smog disaster finally came to an end. For five days an inversion trapped impurities in the lower atmosphere over the Monongahela Valley killing 20 persons, and leaving more than 2000 others sick. (26th-30th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 74 mph near the town of Gould. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the central U.S. Temperatures warmed into the 80s from Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend IND was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids MI and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne IND equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls MN smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse NY received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 70s in the northeastern U.S. The record high of 73 degrees at Alpena MI marked their sixth straight day of record warmth. In the western U.S., Klamath Falls OR reported a record low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1991: The Perfect Storm, also known as the No-Name Storm reached maximum strength on this day with a low pressure of 972 mb and sustained winds of 69 mph.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 19 of 73



## RULES AND RECORDS

Greg was having a difficult time doing his homework, knowing that his favorite sports program was on TV. "Mom," he asked, "can I just this once watch TV before I do my homework?"

"You know the rules," came her quick reply. "No TV until your homework is finished!"

"But, Mom," he protested, "rules are made to be broken."

"No," she said, "records are made to be broken!"

"OK, Mom," he said, "then what's the record for the most rules ever broken?"

Paul spoke of a rule he honored and respected to achieve a record he wanted to set for God. "I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be." After his conversion, he lived his life for one purpose: to use all of his energies, all of his gifts, and all of his time to become who God wanted him to be and fulfill the purpose that God had planned for Him!

As Christ's disciples, we must never allow anything or anyone to cause us to take our eyes off of the goal that God has for each of us: to be and become all that He has saved us for. Paul lived his life as though he were in training to compete in and win an athletic contest. He allowed nothing to interfere with his "training." If something was harmful or distracting in his life, he would turn from it and not allow anything to distract him from his goal.

Prayer: Father, empower us with Your Holy Spirit to live to achieve the goal You have set for each of us. May we be committed to being who You want us to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. Philippians 3:12

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 20 of 73

## 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

## Thursday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Pierre, 21-25, 25-15, 25-10, 21-25, 15-13

Chamberlain def. Bennett County, 25-14, 25-16, 25-12

Gayville-Volin def. Bon Homme, 25-15, 25-10, 21-25, 25-14

Menno def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0

Waubay/Summit def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-18, 25-27, 25-15, 15-25, 15-13

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

## Medtronic pays \$9.2M to settle South Dakota kickback case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Minnesota-based Medtronic has agreed to pay \$9.2 million to resolve allegations that it paid kickbacks to a South Dakota neurosurgeon and failed to accurately report them, the Department of Justice announced Thursday.

The settlement resolves allegations that Medtronic paid for more than 100 social events at a restaurant owned by Dr. Wilson Asfora, at Asfora's request. Medtronic allegedly sponsored the events over a nine-year period to persuade Asfora to use Medtronic products, namely its SynchroMed II intrathecal infusion pumps, which are implantable devices used to deliver medication to patients.

Medtronic admits no liability in the settlement. The Department of Justice said Medtronic cooperated with the investigation and took remedial action against those allegedly involved, including firing a sales representative and sales manager and disciplining 12 other employees.

"Outside of a small number of sales employees, DOJ's investigation did not find that Medtronic was aware of this alleged misconduct at the time it occurred," Medtronic spokesman Ben Petok said in a statement. "Upon investigation of this conduct, which violated the company's policies, Medtronic took various remedial steps, including termination and other disciplinary action against employees directly or peripherally involved, and enhancing relevant training."

Asfora and two of his other companies are defendants in a separate case alleging he received kickbacks to use certain implants in his spinal surgeries. An attorney for Asfora said he had no comment at this time.

"We expect doctors to make medical decisions based on what is best for their patients, not what is best for their bank accounts," South Dakota U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons said in a statement. "The quality of medical care is eroded – and patients and their families suffer – when companies and physicians enter into these sorts of under the table schemes to create illegal financial incentives to increase the use of medical devices."

## COVID-19 deaths in South Dakota breaks daily record

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota reported a record number of daily COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, with 19 people who have died.

The number of hospitalizations also inched up to 413 people, marking the fifth day in a row that it has hit a new high.

The state is experiencing one of the nation's worst waves of the virus, posting the nation's second-highest number of new cases over the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers. There were about 1,336 new cases per 100,000 people. That means that one out of roughly every 75 people in the state has tested positive for the virus in the last two weeks.

Virus infections have shown little sign of slowing down, with the rolling average number of daily new

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 22 of 73

cases increasing as well. The Department of Health reported 1,000 new cases on Thursday, pushing the state past 12,000 active infections.

Gov. Kristi Noem has downplayed the severity of the virus in recent days while highlighting the state's economic outlook.

State labor officials reported that new unemployment claims have declined. During Oct. 18 to Oct. 24, 391 claims were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. A total of 4,375 people were receiving unemployment benefits on Oct. 17.

## Caterpillar, School of Mines partner on mining technology

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Caterpillar says it is partnering with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to build the next generation of mining and construction technology.

University faculty and students will work with Caterpillar engineers on autonomous robotic mining, new software used to manage mining and construction operations and on new equipment that increases efficiency and safety.

"This agreement is great news for the university and for the economy," South Dakota Mines President Jim Rankin said. "The South Dakota mining industry employs more than 2,000 people who produce more than \$500 million in products annually. This partnership builds on those past successes and will yield new business opportunities and a fantastic return on investment for the whole region."

Officials say the partnership could involve a range of projects from research and development in surface mining and reclamation in places like the Powder River Basin to the development of an underground area to test robotic mining equipment at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The university's partnership with Caterpillar comes as efforts are underway to add a new building on campus for three departments: geology and geological engineering, mining engineering and management, and materials and metallurgical engineering.

## Election 2020 Today: Biden in Iowa, Trump packs in thousands

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's what's happening Friday in Election 2020, four days until Election Day:

ON THE TRAIL: President Donald Trump will be in Michigan and Wisconsin; Democratic challenger Joe Biden will travel to Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin; Vice President Mike Pence will be in Arizona; Biden's running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, will travel to Texas.

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

TODAY'S TOP STORIES:

BIDEN RETURNS TO IOWA: When Biden was last in Iowa, his campaign was on the verge of collapse and he was soundly trounced in the caucuses by a former Indiana mayor nearly 40 years his junior. He returns as the Democratic nominee, believing he's just days away from becoming president-elect. Biden's trip reflects the growing confidence among Democrats in the closing days of the campaign.

REFERENDUM ON RACE RELATIONS IN U.S.: An unprecedented convergence of three crises that disproportionately affect people of color — the coronavirus pandemic, joblessness and police brutality — has led many to believe this presidential election is a referendum on race relations in America. Black voters will be decisive in the outcome. Biden is relying on strong turnout among Black voters in cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia and Milwaukee to tip critical swing states in his direction. The Republican president, meanwhile, is focusing on appeals to his core base of white voters.

ELECTION DAY ROLE FOR NATIONAL GUARD?: Federal laws and long-standing custom generally leave the U.S. military out of the election process. But Trump's unsubstantiated warnings about widespread voting irregularities have raised questions about a possible military role. If any element of the military were to get involved, it would likely be the National Guard under state control.

TRUMP, HEALTH ADVISERS SPLIT UP: A multistate coronavirus surge in the countdown to Election Day

has exposed a clear split between Trump's bullish embrace of a return to normalcy and urgent public warnings from the government's top health officials. It's the opposite of what usually happens in a public health crisis, because political leaders tend to repeat and amplify the recommendations of their health experts, not short-circuit them.

**TRUMP RALLIES KEEP PACKING IN THOUSANDS:** Trump's campaign rallies are among the nation's biggest events held in defiance of coronavirus-related crowd restrictions. The president's rallies regularly cram supporters together — with masks optional and social distancing frowned upon. Public health experts say Trump is setting the wrong example at a time when greater precautions are urgently needed.

ICYMI:

Supreme Court issues flurry of last-minute election orders  
Harris target of more misinformation than Pence, data shows  
Pelosi wants 'big' health care, infrastructure push in 2021  
Philly shooting brings policing, racism back into campaign  
Florida, butt of election jokes, believes system is ready  
In South, most Black Senate candidates since Reconstruction

## As anger rises, thousands of Muslims protest French cartoons

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Thousands of Muslims in Pakistan poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French president's vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet Muhammad continues to roil the Muslim world.

An estimated 2,000 worshippers celebrating the Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, took to the streets in the eastern city of Lahore. Crowds led by Islamic parties chanted anti-France slogans, raised banners and clogged major roads en route to a Sufi shrine. Dozens of people furiously stomped on French flags and cried for the boycott of French products. In Multan, a city in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, thousands burned an effigy of French President Emmanuel Macron and demanded that Pakistan sever ties with France.

More gatherings were planned for later Friday in Pakistan, including the capital Islamabad, where police were out in force to prevent possible demonstrations outside the French Embassy. The atmosphere was tense as police positioned shipping containers to block the roads.

In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians protested against Macron outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, chanting, "With our souls and with our blood we sacrifice for our prophet, Muhammad." Some youths scuffled with Israeli police as they exited the holy site into the Old City.

Other protests, largely organized by Islamists, are expected across the region, including in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

In Afghanistan, members of the Islamist party Hezb-i-Islami set the French flag ablaze. Its leader, Gulbudin Hekmatyar, warned Macron that if he doesn't "control the situation, we are going to a third world war and Europe will be responsible."

The protests come amid rising tensions between France and Muslim-majority nations, which flared up earlier this month when a young Muslim beheaded a French schoolteacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class.

Those images, republished by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo to mark the opening of the trial for the deadly 2015 attack against the publication, have stirred the ire of Muslims across the world who consider depictions of the prophet blasphemous.

A series of attacks that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremism ensued. On Thursday, a knife-wielding Tunisian man carrying a copy of the Quran killed three people at a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice. That same day, a Saudi man stabbed and lightly wounded a security guard at the French consulate in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, prompting France to urge its citizens there to be on "high alert."

Over the past week, protests and calls to boycott French products have spread rapidly from Bangladesh

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 24 of 73

to Pakistan to Kuwait. Social media has been pulsing with anti-France hashtags. Muslim leaders, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in particular, have loudly criticized France for what they see as the government's provocative and anti-Muslim stance.

Thursday's attack in Nice also drew condemnations from leaders of countries that had voiced outrage over the caricatures, such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt.

In a Friday sermon aired live on Egyptian state TV, the country's minister of religious endowments appeared to denounce any violent retaliation for the cartoons.

"Love of the prophet cannot be expressed by killing, sabotaging or responding to evil with evil," said Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa, addressing dozens of worshippers at a mosque in Egypt's Delta province of Daqahleya.

Associated Press writers Asim Tanveer in Multan, Pakistan; Tameem Akhgar in Kabul, Afghanistan; Noha ElHennawy in Cairo and Joseph Krauss in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## Biden marks Iowa rise from caucus collapse to fall contender

By ZEKE MILLER, ALEXANDRA JAFFE and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — When Joe Biden was last in Iowa, his presidential campaign was on the verge of collapse and he was soundly trounced in the caucuses by a former Indiana mayor nearly 40 years his junior. He returns Friday as the Democratic nominee, believing he's just days away from becoming president-elect.

Biden's trip reflects the growing confidence among Democrats in the closing days of the campaign. Iowa, which Donald Trump won by 9 points in 2016, is among the clutch of GOP-leaning states that Biden is trying to bring back into the Democratic column. He'll also swing through Wisconsin on Friday while his running mate, Kamala Harris, courts voters in Texas, a longtime GOP bastion that Democrats insist is in play this year.

Trump, meanwhile, is playing defense in Michigan and Wisconsin, states he won four years ago. Trump and Biden will both be in Minnesota, a longtime Democratic state that the Republican president is trying to flip.

The arc of Biden's rise is eclipsed only by the challenges faced by Trump — whose confidence in his reelection was dealt a devastating blow by the coronavirus pandemic this spring, with the public health and economic crises still rearing their heads in the days leading up to the close of polling.

With four days until the election and more than 80 million votes already cast, time is running out for Trump and Biden to change the shape of the race. Biden is leading most national polls and has a narrow advantage in the critical battlegrounds that could decide the race.

That's why both men zeroed in on Florida on Thursday. While Biden has a path to victory without the critical battleground state, Trump's reelection bid would almost certainly be blocked if he loses there.

"If Florida goes blue, it's over," Biden told supporters Thursday.

Friday marks the beginning of the critical final stretch before the election. Trump's closing sprint to Election Day also includes three stops in Pennsylvania on Saturday and nearly a dozen events in the final 48 hours across states he carried in 2016.

After Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota on Friday, Biden will hit Michigan on Saturday, where he'll hold a joint rally with former President Barack Obama.

Biden has held fewer events in a nod to the restrictions in place across the country to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The virus has killed more than 228,000 people in the United States, and cases are surging across the country, threatening an economic recovery Trump had aimed to champion.

Trump on Thursday celebrated a new federal estimate that the economy grew at a stunning 33.1% annual rate in the July-September quarter — by far the largest quarterly gain on record — making up ground from its epic plunge in the spring, when the eruption of the coronavirus closed businesses and threw tens of millions of people out of work.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 25 of 73

"So glad this great GDP number came out before November 3rd," Trump tweeted, predicting a dire reversal if Biden is elected.

But economists warned that the economy is already weakening again and facing renewed threats as confirmed viral cases surge, hiring has slowed and federal stimulus help has mostly run out.

Biden said, "The recovery is slowing if not stalling, and the recovery that is happening is helping those at the top but leaving tens of millions of working families and small businesses behind."

Harris, a California senator, was set to campaign across Texas on Friday, aiming to chip into Republicans' historic advantage in the diversifying and increasingly competitive state.

Trump is banking on local news coverage of his rallies to overcome a substantial advertising deficit stemming from a late cash crunch. Biden and his allies are outspending Trump and his backers by a more than 3-1 ratio in Florida — about \$23 million to about \$7 million — in the final push to Election Day, according to data from ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Biden, meanwhile, is pouring tens of millions of dollars into a torrent of online advertising that will deliver his closing message of the presidential campaign, highlighting his promise to govern for all Americans while blasting Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I will work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do," Biden says in one of the digital ads, which took over the masthead of YouTube Thursday. "That's the job of a president — the duty to care for everyone."

How much exactly Biden will spend is unclear. His campaign says it is putting a "mid-eight-figure" dollar amount behind over 100 different ads, which means they could be spending as little as \$25 million — but potentially much more.

The ads will run on social media platforms including Instagram and Facebook, streaming services such as Hulu and music applications like Pandora.

The Republican National Committee, meanwhile, launched its closing message to voters Thursday, not mentioning Trump, in an apparent aim to help GOP candidates up and down the ballot with a focus on traditional Republican messages around lowering taxes and health care.

The aftereffects of Hurricane Zeta were holding back voters at a number of polling places in northern Florida and northern Georgia that lost power. In Douglas County, in Atlanta's western suburbs, all six polling locations were without power, as were county offices.

---

Miller reported from Washington and Jaffe from Tampa, Florida. Associated Press writers Tamara Lush and Aamer Madhani in Tampa, Florida, Michelle Price in Bullhead City, Kathleen Ronayne in Phoenix, and Will Weissert and Brian Slodysko in Washington contributed to this report.

---

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/>.

## **New arrest after France church attack, security tightened**

By ANGELA CHARLTON and DANIEL COLE Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — The investigation into a gruesome attack by a Tunisian man who killed three people in a French church had a second suspect in custody Friday, as France heightened its security alert amid religious and geopolitical tensions around cartoons mocking the Muslim prophet.

Muslims held more anti-France protests across the Mideast and beyond on Friday, while mourners placed flowers, messages and candles at the entrance to the Notre Dame Basilica in the French Riviera city of Nice, where Thursday's knife attack took place.

The attacker, Ibrahim Issaoui, was seriously wounded by police and hospitalized in life-threatening condition, authorities said. Anti-terrorism prosecutors in France and Tunisia are investigating.

The new suspect is a 47-year-old man believed to have been in contact with the attacker the night before the attack, according to a judicial official. The official was not authorized to be publicly named.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 26 of 73

The victims included 55-year-old Vincent Loques, a father of two who was the church's sacristan, in charge of its holy objects, according to local broadcaster France-Bleu. Another was a 44-year-old mother of three from Brazil named Simone who had studied cooking in Nice and helped poor communities, France-Bleu reported.

In an interview broadcast Friday with Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV, the attacker's mother said she was shocked by the events.

From the Tunisian province of Sfax, the mother, her eyes wet with tears, said she was surprised to hear her son was in France when he called upon his arrival and had no idea what he was planning. "You don't know the French language, you don't know anyone there, you're going to live alone there, why, why did you go there?" she said she told him over the phone at the time.

His brother told Al-Arabiya that Issaoui had informed the family he would sleep in front of the church, and sent them a photograph showing him at the cathedral where the attack took place. "He didn't tell me anything," he said. A neighbor said he knew the assailant when he was a mechanic and held various other odd jobs, and had shown no signs of radicalization.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said the suspect is a Tunisian born in 1999 who reached the Italian island of Lampedusa, a key landing point for migrants crossing in boats from North Africa, on Sept. 20 and traveled to Bari, a port city in southern Italy, on Oct. 9. It is not clear when he arrived in Nice.

Tunisians fleeing a virus-battered economy make up the largest contingent of migrants landing in Italy this year. Italian media reported that from Lampedusa, where Issaoui was one of 1,300 arriving migrants on Sept. 20, he was placed with 800 others on a virus quarantine boat in Puglia.

After the two-week quarantine, he received a notice that he was being expelled from Italy for illegal entry and was given seven days to leave the country, according to Milan daily Corriere della Sera.

Italy's interior minister confirmed Friday that the suspect was ordered to leave Italy on Oct. 9. Minister Luciana Lamorgese did not give further details on what, if any action, was taken to ensure the man complied with the order, but she said he was not flagged by either Tunisian authorities nor by intelligence agencies.

Lamorgese called Thursday's attack in France "an attack on Europe. Let's not forget that Lampedusa, Italy is the gateway to Europe."

The attack was the third in less than two months that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class after the images were re-published by satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The images deeply offended many Muslims, and protesters burned on French flags, stomped on portraits of President Emmanuel Macron or called for boycotts of French products at demonstrations Friday in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. Other protests, largely organized by Islamists, are expected across the region, including in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers deployed to protect French schools and religious sites from around 3,000 to 7,000. Schools remain open during a nationwide lockdown that started Friday to stem the spread of the virus, but religious services are canceled.

France's interior minister said Friday that the country is "at war" with Islamist extremists, and the conservative lawmaker for the Nice region, Eric Ciotti, called for a "French-style Guantanamo" to lock up terrorist suspects.

Charlton reported from Paris. Colleen Barry contributed from Milan.

## As virus surges, Trump rallies keep packing in thousands

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are no crowds at Disneyland, still shut down by the coronavirus. Fewer fans attended the World Series this year than at any time in the past century. Big concerts are canceled.

But it's a different story in Trumpland. Thousands of President Donald Trump's supporters regularly cram together at campaign rallies around the country — masks optional and social distancing frowned upon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 27 of 73

Trump rallies are among the nation's biggest events being held in defiance of crowd restrictions designed to stop the virus from spreading. This at a time when public health experts are advising people to think twice even about inviting many guests for Thanksgiving dinner.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, when you have congregate settings where people are crowded together and virtually no one is wearing a mask, that's a perfect setup to have an outbreak of acquisition and transmissibility," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, recently told Yahoo News. "It's a public health and scientific fact."

The Trump campaign, which distributes masks and hand sanitizer at its rallies, says those who attend are peaceful protesters who, just like Black Lives Matter demonstrators, have a right to assemble. The Republican president says he wants to get the country back to normal.

Some states have fined venues that host Trump rallies for violating caps on crowd size. But the rallies continue — even as the U.S. sees cases spike, especially in the Midwest and the Plains. The nation posted a record high number of new infections last week — nearly 500,000.

And the crowds keep turning out for Trump.

Ysabel Benejam, 69, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, drove about 90 minutes to Lansing and waited more than four hours in rainy, near-freezing temperatures to see Trump on Tuesday.

"I'm not afraid at all," said Benejam, wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and a mask emblazoned with "Trump 2020." "We need to step back into normality."

Democrat Joe Biden, in contrast, has shunned rallies and instead holds online and drive-in events where people honk their horns to show support. He calls the Trump rallies "super-spreader events" and says he's listening to the warnings of public health experts.

Since Feb. 7, when Trump told author Bob Woodward that he knew the coronavirus was airborne and deadlier than the flu, the president has hosted more than 50 rallies in more than two dozen states. They were halted during most of March, April and May because of the pandemic. After they resumed in late June, they were held primarily outdoors at airports.

Mask use is spotty. Some people cover their mouths but not their noses. And by the end of Trump's hour-plus speeches, some masks are slung low around people's chins. The campaign makes a point to ask people sitting behind Trump — and likely to be captured on camera — to wear masks, but they don't always comply.

Pete Kingsley, 80, of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, was not wearing a mask as he approached the security line at Trump's rally Monday in Lititz. He said he believes the virus is being hyped to hurt Trump's chance of reelection and to "bash the economy — destroy it."

"If I need to put a mask on, I'll put it on," he said. "If I don't, I won't put it on."

Lita Ciaccio, 65, of Laurel, Maryland, was concerned about contracting the virus but showed up anyway. She arrived wearing a mask and plastic face shield and said she planned to stand on the "edges" of the crowd.

Not all locals are happy to have Trump come to town.

Trump held a rally Sept. 25 in Newport News, Virginia, even though public health officials warned that it would violate Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's executive order generally banning gatherings of more than 250 people.

Zach Nayer, a resident at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, and a colleague later compiled county data on new coronavirus cases at Trump rally sites from late June to the Newport News event. They reviewed the number of cases for the 14 days before and after each event and published their findings on the health news site STAT.

They found that spikes in COVID-19 cases occurred in seven of the 14 cities and townships where rallies were held: Tulsa, Oklahoma; Phoenix; Old Forge, Pennsylvania; Bemidji and Mankato in Minnesota; and Oshkosh and Weston, Wisconsin.

The researchers acknowledged, however, that increased caseloads could not be definitely linked to the rallies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 28 of 73

"We've had a huge increase in cases in the past six to eight weeks," said Judy Burrows, public information officer for the health department in Marathon County, which includes Weston, Wisconsin.

She said the department is far behind in processing individual cases and has not been able to do a complete job in tracing back to where people contracted the virus. A lot of people in the community are attending mass gatherings, but the health department doesn't have data suggesting that one is more to blame than another, she said.

"It's not about Trump. It's not about Biden or anyone else running for office right now," Burrows said. "The problem is people are going to places where there are lots of other people. They're not masking. They're not social distancing. They're not doing the kinds of things that can slow the spread."

The Trump rallies have irked Democrats in battleground states, including Christopher Gibbs, a farmer in Maplewood, Ohio, who voted for Trump in 2016 but now supports Biden.

Gibbs is president of a new group called Rural America 2020, which sponsored dozens of billboards around the country to elevate issues important to rural residents. After the president returned to the campaign trail, the group decided to repurpose the billboards and use them to warn residents about the risks of his events.

The group also had a plane tow a long banner over Omaha, Nebraska, before Tuesday's rally there. It said: "Warning! Superspreader Trump Visiting NE. Mask Up!"

In Minnesota, Democratic Gov. Tim Walz said he was "deeply disappointed" to learn that compliance with the state's masking and social distancing guidance was poor at Vice President Mike Pence's rally Monday in the city of Hibbing.

The Trump campaign paid \$1,000 to get the rally site, according to a contract with the airport that included a provision that the rally conform to Minnesota restrictions. Hibbing police estimated the crowd at 650 — well beyond the state's 250-person limit due to COVID-19.

The Minnesota Department of Health says 24 coronavirus cases have been reported among people who attended large Trump campaign events in the state, including 16 at a rally in Bemidji. The department said four more cases were reported among anti-Trump protesters who attended the Bemidji rally.

Concerned about the spread of the coronavirus, Treworgy Family Orchards in Levant, Maine, voiced regrets this week about Trump's visit to their business on Sunday.

The orchard said it expected the president to make an unannounced visit, surprise a few people and take photos with pumpkins. Instead, word got out and hundreds of people — many without masks — showed up and lined the motorcade route to the orchard, which has a mask and social distance policy.

"We were not aware that this visit would be open to the public without our ability to enforce our policies," the orchard said. "All enforcement of the farm was handled by the Secret Service, and by the time crowds began to gather, our staff was not able to move freely."

Associated Press writers Tom Tait in Las Vegas, Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis and Amer Madhani and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## On virus, Trump and health advisers go their separate ways

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A multi-state coronavirus surge in the countdown to Election Day has exposed a clear split between President Donald Trump's bullish embrace of a return to normalcy and urgent public warnings from the government's top health officials.

It's the opposite of what usually happens in a public health crisis, because political leaders tend to repeat and amplify the recommendations of their health experts, not short-circuit them. "It's extremely unusual for there to be simultaneous contrary messaging," said John Auerbach, who heads the nonpartisan Trust for America's Health.

The Republican president and the health officials appear to be moving farther apart since White House chief of staff Mark Meadows declared last Sunday "we're not going to control the pandemic."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 29 of 73

Since then, Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Adm. Brett Giroir has done a round of interviews warning that the country's situation is "tenuous" but that Americans can indeed control the virus by practicing what he calls the "3W's" — watching your distance from others, wearing a mask and frequently washing your hands.

White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Deborah Birx, touring the states to raise prevention awareness, lamented in Bismarck, North Dakota, that she hadn't seen such disdain for mask wearing elsewhere. "We find that deeply unfortunate because you don't know who's infected and you don't know if you're infected yourself," she told reporters. The state's positive test rate is 11%, above the level indicating widespread transmission.

HHS Secretary Alex Azar, for his part, has a profile photo of himself masked up on his Twitter account.

But Trump continues to ridicule masks and mask-wearing as he insists the U.S. has turned the corner on the virus. At a reelection rally Wednesday in Bullhead City, Arizona, the president painted a sardonic word picture of left-coast Californians trying to eat through their masks.

"How about California ... where you are supposed to eat with the mask (and) can't take it off?" Trump said. "You see people and, boy, you know when you have spaghetti and meat sauce ... you walk out it looks like you got into a fight."

That's not actually what the California governor's office recently recommended to restaurant goers. The advice was to keep the mask on when not eating, or "between bites." An illustration showed a diner masked while reading the menu and, later, while wiping her hands with a napkin after eating.

It might all be considered political theater if the nation's situation weren't so serious.

"We are in a third wave," said Marta Wosinska of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. "We are seeing pretty dramatic increases in the number of people hospitalized and an uptick in deaths."

The White House insists there's no conflict between Trump and the health advisers who back in the spring shared the briefing room podium with the president on many an occasion.

"As the president has said, the cure cannot be worse than the disease and this country should be open armed with best practices, such as social distancing, good hygiene, and face coverings, to limit the spread of COVID-19," spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.

The health officials do not invoke Trump in their warnings, and they sidestep questions that might lead them into anything that could be perceived as a direct criticism. But their message reflects a different view of reality than what's coming from the president and senior White House officials.

"I wasn't an English major, but 'tenuous' seems like the right word" to describe the condition of the country, Giroir said this week on NBC. The surge can be controlled by going back to the "3W's" but "if we don't do those things it may force local officials or government officials in the states to have more draconian measures."

The numbers bear him out.

According to data through Wednesday from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the U.S. rose over the past two weeks from 52,350 to more than 74,180. That marks a return to levels not seen since the summer surge.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new deaths rose over the past two weeks from 724 to 787.

Fifteen states have test positive rates of 10% or higher, considered an indicator of widespread transmission. The picture is not all bleak because there are also states that have succeeded in curbing previous surges.

But test positive rates have been rising in 45 states, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Giroir also said the facts contradict the notion that that the U.S. has more cases because it tests so many people. That's an assertion often heard from Trump.

"We do believe, and the data show, cases are going up — it's not just a function of testing," he said on NBC. Rising numbers of hospitalizations and deaths confirm that.

Trump's clashes with science and the scientists around him have been a running story throughout the pandemic. He's often lashed out at Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease specialist.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 30 of 73

He's called CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield "confused" about the timeline for the availability of vaccines. But the split is only growing wider.

With the arrival of cold weather, the virus risk is greater because people will spend time indoors where it can spread more readily. Contradictory messages from the top don't help.

"The risk is enormous," said Auerbach. "We are literally talking about lives being at stake."

## Election emerges as referendum on race relations in America

By KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Every day feels like a raw wound for Omari Barksdale.

His sister, Laneeka Barksdale, died of COVID-19 in late March in Detroit — and since then, so have more than 228,000 Americans. Many were Black Americans whose communities were disproportionately devastated by the virus.

Omari Barksdale, a Black man, watched with alarm as the toll of the country's racial injustice mounted. People of color bore the brunt of pandemic-related job losses. Police shot and killed Breonna Taylor inside her Kentucky home, and a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into George Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes as Floyd gasped, "I can't breathe," in his final moments.

The convergence of the pandemic, joblessness and police brutality has forced the U.S. to confront its centuries-old legacy of systemic racism this year. And for Barksdale and many Black Americans, it's turned next week's presidential election into a referendum on the future of race relations, an opportunity to take steps toward healing or the potential of a deeper divide.

"It feels like half of me was taken away," said Barksdale, who, in the weeks after his sister's death, began leading a team of volunteers canvassing Michigan voters. "For many years, we've had this commentary about how far we've come, but if you look at the landscape and dynamics right now of America, we're back in the '50s and '60s. The reasons for protesting are the same now as they were then: for the protection of Black lives, the opportunity for Black lives, and the understanding and value of Black lives."

Black voters will be decisive in shaping next week's results. Democrat Joe Biden is relying on strong turnout among Black voters in cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia and Milwaukee to tip critical swing states in his direction. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, is focusing most of his effort on last-minute appeals to his core base of white voters.

As of Thursday, more than 79 million votes had been cast in the 2020 general election, with Black voters making up almost 9% of that total, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from the political data firm L2. In North Carolina, a battleground state seeing high turnout across the board, 60% of Black registered voters have already cast a ballot.

"The soul of the nation is at risk," longtime civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton said in an interview. "Another four years of Trump would completely set us back and the advancements that we've made towards equal rights, human rights and civil rights. It would take us 20 or 30 years, a generation, to get back what he would cement."

The election-year reckoning is the culmination of centuries of inequity and racism that far predates Trump's political career. But Trump has pulled at the nation's racial divide throughout his presidency.

He blamed "both sides" for 2017 violence between white supremacists and anti-racism protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, and wondered why the U.S. was admitting so many immigrants from "shithole countries" like African nations. He said four Democratic congresswomen of color should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from, ignoring the fact that all of the women are American citizens and three were born in the U.S.

Trump was criticized in September for his initial refusal to outright condemn a far-right fascist group during a debate with Biden.

"Donald Trump is an unabashed racist who not only revels in his ability to mock, scorn and create harm, he denies any culpability for the consequences," said Stacey Abrams, a voting rights activist and former Georgia gubernatorial candidate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 31 of 73

"I fear for our communities if he retains the seat of the presidency for four more years. I also have a deep worry that his continued occupation of that seat would result in those who intend us harm who will feel that they have carte blanche to do so," said Abrams, who is Black. "My deep hope is that the demographic changes in our country, coupled with the consciences of white Americans who understand that he is wrong, they will actually do what's right."

Trump points to criminal justice reform, opportunity zones and funding for historically Black colleges and universities as examples of what he's done for Black Americans, but many critics argue his claims are exaggerated or undermined by his comments.

After a summer of nationwide unrest that led to millions marching in the streets of America, Trump has billed himself as a leader who will restore "law and order" — an attempt to appeal to white grievances and allay white suburban fears.

Just this week, Trump's presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner said the president wants to help Black people in America, but they have to "want to be successful" for his policies to work, a comment that recalled racist stereotypes of Black Americans.

"What we see is when racism goes unchecked and becomes institutionalized publicly and becomes a part of our administration," said Jessica Byrd, who leads the Movement for Black Lives' Electoral Justice Project and The Frontline, a multiracial coalition effort to galvanize voters. "We've seen firsthand the way that a vocal minority can become an extremist power building faction."

Biden has his own vulnerabilities on race. He has apologized for the poor treatment of Anita Hill when she testified before his Senate committee in 1991 to accuse then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. He's also expressed regret about provisions of a 1994 crime bill he supported that has been blamed for incarcerating a generation of Black men.

But he's put Black voters at the center of his 2020 campaign. His presidential hopes were rescued in February when Black voters in South Carolina rallied around him, powering him through Super Tuesday wins and helping deliver the Democratic nomination.

Unlike Trump, he has acknowledged systemic racism and has pledged to address it.

"Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy, doesn't believe that systemic racism is a problem, and won't say that Black lives matter," Biden said Tuesday in Atlanta. "We know Black lives matter."

In the final stretch of the campaign, Black voters are organizing to make sure their votes are counted. LaTosha Brown, the co-founder of Black Voters Matter Fund, said her organization has traveled across 15 states to galvanize voters, including in rural counties and smaller cities that are often ignored.

"America is at its tipping point," Brown said. "We're in a perfect storm of being at the intersection of a health pandemic, an intersection of a lot of uncertainty around the political future of this country, and the economic future of this country and blatant open racism. All of that is forcing us to deal with the evils of this country that we have not dealt with, which is quite frankly sexism and racism."

But some voters of color are still making up their minds. Victor Gomez, a 39-year-old Latino man in Hayward, California, said the pandemic and immigration are top concerns.

He doesn't feel like Trump or Biden has addressed issues that matter most to Latinos. He's still planning to vote, but hasn't decided whom he'll back.

"A lot of people have friends who are immigrants, and they get discriminated against because they don't have papers and they struggle," Gomez said. "The (president) says that he supports Latinos and immigrants, but I haven't seen anything from him but putting us down."

But matters involving race are not only at the forefront for voters of color. As they've watched several forms of racial injustice collide this year, many white Americans have been forced to grapple with uncomfortable truths about racism.

Detroit resident Colton Dale, a 27-year-old white man who is the vice president of the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and a lifelong Democrat, said he's had conversations with family members and co-workers who support Trump. He's spent time trying to convince them, as well as potential voters he encounters, of the "chaos" Trump's presidency has caused.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 32 of 73

"I think people, even Republicans and his supporters, they know who he is, especially four years down the road," Dale said. "I just try to draw a contrast and say that we would be living in a better and brighter America under a Joe Biden administration as opposed to another four years of Trump. People are just ready to end this nightmare."

The Biden campaign has also spent a significant amount of time and resources to connect with younger voters, who turned out in droves over the summer to protest police brutality and racism.

For the past several months, Tylik McMillan, the National Action Network's national director of youth and college, has focused on educating first-time voters, college students and young voters who have been disengaged with the political process about what's at stake.

"The reality is when I step out of these doors, we're still just Black in America, and I can be the next George Floyd. I can be the next Ahmaud Arbery. And to have a leader at the highest office not understand that racism is real in this country, it's a problem," said McMillan, 24.

But regardless of the election's outcome, America will be left to grapple with the "fault lines" and fractures of racism and inequity that have been made clear.

"Nov. 3 will be a referendum on Black lives, it will be a referendum on structural change, and will be a referendum on whether, when we are experiencing all of this chaos, are we going to look to one another for solutions and embrace one another or are we going to look towards one another with fear and suspicion?" said Maurice Mitchell, the national director of Working Families Party, who is also a leader of The Frontline. "The movement, now the largest social movement in our country's history, will be the story of 2020, whatever the outcome."

Kat Stafford is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Stafford on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/kat\\_stafford](http://twitter.com/kat_stafford).

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/>.

## 'Our heart breaks': South digs out from Zeta's wrath

By JEFF AMY and KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Trees on top of buses and cars. Roofs ripped off homes. Boats pushed onto the highway by surging seawater. Hundreds of thousands of people left in the dark.

The remnants of Hurricane Zeta were far from land over the Atlantic on Friday, but people across the South were still digging out from the powerful storm that killed six people.

The wind effects of Zeta, which came ashore in Cocodrie, Louisiana, and barreled northeast, were felt all the way from the Gulf Coast to southern New Jersey. At the height of the outages, as many as 2.6 million people were without power across seven states from Louisiana to Virginia. Utility crews were out assessing the damage and fixing it.

In Louisiana, one of the hardest hit areas was Grand Isle, a barrier island community south of New Orleans. Gov. John Bel Edwards called the damage there "catastrophic" and ordered the Louisiana National Guard to fly in soldiers to assist with search and rescue efforts.

Dodie Vegas, who with her husband owns Bridge Side Marina on Grand Isle, said damage was minimal at their waterside complex of cabins, campgrounds and docking facilities, but the rest of the island wasn't so lucky.

"As far as you can see, going down the island, the power lines are cracked in half," she said by phone Thursday after riding out the storm with family. She described torn-off roofs and scattered debris: "The middle of the island looks like a bomb was dropped."

A man was electrocuted in New Orleans, and four people died in Alabama and Georgia when trees fell on homes, authorities said, including two people who were pinned to their bed. In Biloxi, Mississippi, a man drowned when he was trapped in rising seawater.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 33 of 73

Officials repeatedly stressed that the risks were not over — pointing out that fatalities often come after a storm has passed, from things like breathing toxic generator fumes or being electrocuted by downed power lines.

Zeta was the 27th named storm of a historically busy year, with more than a month left in the Atlantic hurricane season. It set a new record as the 11th named storm to make landfall in the continental U.S. in a single season, well beyond the nine that hit in 1916. And the coronavirus pandemic has only made things more difficult for evacuees.

“Our heart breaks because this has been a tough, tough year,” said Gov. Edwards, whose state has taken the brunt of the hurricanes.

Every storm is different, and with Zeta the biggest threat was its winds. The hurricane intensified quickly and was just shy of a major, Category 3 storm when it hit the Louisiana coast.

The howling gale toppled trees and knocked limbs off stately oaks in New Orleans, and in Mississippi the storm surge whipped up by the winds tossed a shrimping boat into a front yard.

Mayor Sheldon Day of Thomasville, Alabama, said hundreds of trees fell in roads and on homes, while some gas station canopies blew over.

“At one point, every major thoroughfare was blocked by trees,” Day said.

Many people were still assessing the damage.

Keith Forrest of Bridge City, Louisiana, was launching a boat with his nephew in Lafitte, Louisiana, on Thursday to try to get to his fishing camp.

“I got a phone call because the roof blew off one camp,” Forrest said.

With just a few days until the Nov. 3 election, there were concerns about whether the storm would impact voters’ ability to get to the polls.

Far fewer early voters showed up after the storm in Pascagoula, Mississippi, a court clerk said, and power failures in two Georgia counties disrupted voting. In Louisiana, getting power back to polling centers was a priority as was letting voters know quickly if there were any changes to locations come Tuesday.

In Georgia, a group of civil rights organizations asked the governor to extend early voting hours Friday.

In the remote area of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, commercial fisherman Acy Cooper said his boats survived the storm. But without electricity, he feared operations could be shut down as long as two weeks.

“Without no lights, none of the docks can work,” he said. “Everything’s automated now — the scales and the conveyors.”

The heightened storm activity has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing wetter, stronger and more destructive storms.

And as bad as the 2020 hurricane season has been, it isn’t over. Forecasters said disturbed air off the northern coast of South America could become a tropical depression and head toward Nicaragua by early next week — a forecast not lost on Louisiana’s governor.

“Let’s not pray it on anybody else,” Edwards said. “Let’s just pray it away from us.”

---

Amy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press contributors include Rebecca Santana in New Orleans, Ben Nadler in Atlanta, Stacey Plaisance in Marrero, Louisiana; Gerald Herbert in Lakeshore, Mississippi; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Skip Foreman in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Leah Willingham in Jackson, Mississippi; Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia; Sophia Tulp and Desiree Mathurin in Atlanta.

## West Virginia voters laud Trump for trying to save coal

By CUNEYD DIL Associated Press

DANVILLE, W.Va. (AP) — As a laid off coal mine electrician, Nolan Triplett doesn’t think his industry will ever return to the heady days when it powered America and offered generations of Appalachians a chance at a middle class life.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 34 of 73

But he still backs the president who said he'd reopen the mines and put thousands back to work, even if such promises proved empty.

"Even if I don't go back to this industry, I'm still with him," said Triplett, 41, outside a mine worker certification office in Danville, a town of about 700 people along the Little Coal River in Boone County south of Charleston.

Four years after Donald Trump donned a miner's helmet at a West Virginia campaign rally and vowed to save a dying industry, coal has not come roaring back. The fuel has been outmatched against cheaper, cleaner natural gas and renewable energy.

But many West Virginians applaud Trump's efforts and remain loyal as he seeks a second term. Triplett and other voters say they are attracted to his "America First" slogan and anti-abortion stance, and figure he's the only one standing in the way of the entire industry closing down.

"He's done good for this country all around," said Triplett, who lost his last mine job when the pandemic hit.

Democrat Joe Biden, who calls global warming an existential crisis, has promised to steer investments to coal and power plant communities, creating new jobs in renewable energy.

But many in coal country seem more intent on blaming the climate-change messenger than considering his plans for growth.

Next to Triplett stood Ronnie Starr, who lives near the Kentucky border in Mingo County, the scene of a legendary shootout over labor rights in the mines a century ago. He's had to move as far as Alabama to find work as a mine electrician since he started in the early 2000s, and is also out of a job now. He said the last Democrat he voted for was Bill Clinton, and he enthusiastically supports Trump.

"You got the right president, things go good," said Starr, 43.

"And you got one group that hates us with a passion and would rather see us starve out and die," Triplett cut in, "then you get another group that supports us, so it's a rollercoaster."

Since 2014, West Virginia has lost nearly a third of its remaining full-time coal jobs as production declines, starving local governments of revenue. When Trump took office in January 2017, Boone County received nearly \$269,000 in quarterly coal company severance taxes. This October, it got just \$42,300.

Nationally, cheap natural gas is beating coal on the market and coal-powered plants are closing. Coal consumption decreased nearly 15% in 2019 alone, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

In 2016, the federal agency reported the industry's worst jobs record since it began collecting this data in 1978, showing a yearly average of 51,795 employees at U.S. coal mines. Employment increased by a marginal 1.9% as of 2019.

"The coal jobs did not come back as the president promised," said U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, a rare Democrat still thriving in West Virginia. "The markets have shifted."

Anthony Starkey, a retired miner in Danville, said Trump earned his vote again by signing a bill last year to save the pensions of some retired coal workers, including his own.

"He's a typical New Yorker, he's arrogant," Starkey said, pausing while mowing the lawn outside the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge in Madison, the Boone County seat. "Whether you love him or hate him, he's done what he's said he's going to do."

Starkey, 62, said he was a Democrat all the years he worked as a miner, starting at about 17 in the early 1980s. He retired early at 38, drawing from a pension that nearly got wiped out as coal companies that paid into the fund went bankrupt. The relief Trump signed replaced corporate spending with \$10 billion in public dollars to rescue pensions for 92,000 retirees, and health benefits for 13,000.

"If he was a typical Republican, he would not have signed that bill," said Starkey.

Business has fallen off in the Danville hardware store Fred Byrnside, 73, has run for 30 years. "There was a time when 24-year-olds were getting jobs here in the mines," he said.

"One time he could buy me lunch, and now he can't afford it," cracked Craig Bratcher, a Boone County commissioner who stopped into the store.

Bratcher, who describes himself as a moderate, wouldn't say who he'll vote for, but offered a forgiving assessment of Trump.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 35 of 73

"He's come in and he's tried," he said. "I'll give him this."

But he and others admit there's no saving the industry. Although many won't forgive President Barack Obama for pushing to curtail carbon-polluting coal, Bratcher said the decline started before his inauguration.

That skepticism about coal's future is widely shared, even among Republican officeholders.

"I don't think anyone thinks it's a growth industry," said Republican U.S. Sen. Shelley Capito, who is seeking re-election as a Trump ally. "What we've gotten with the president is a stabilization of the coal industry."

It doesn't seem to matter much to these voters that Trump promised more than stabilization: "We're going to put the miners back to work!" he told a campaign rally in Charleston in May 2016. "We're going to get those mines open."

That hasn't happened, even as Trump has rolled back some Obama-era regulations, such as one aimed at reducing contamination from the wastewater that coal-burning power plants release into streams, lakes and underground aquifers.

Richard Lalonde, a registered Democrat, still works at 82 inside a thrift shop he and his wife own in Madison, where a coal mining museum promises it is "preserving the past for future generations." He said he remains uncommitted as to his choice on Election Day, after supporting Trump in 2016. But he's blunt about coal's promise for his town's economy.

"It's never going to be like the way it was before," he said. "Around here it's done."

## After wolves rebound across US West, future up to voters

By MATTHEW BROWN, JAMES ANDERSON and CHRISTINA LARSON Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — The saucer-sized footprints in the mud around the bloody, disemboweled bison carcass were unmistakable: wolves.

A pack of 35 named after a nearby promontory, Junction Butte, now were snoozing on a snow-dusted hillside above the carcass. Tourists dressed against the weather watched the pack through spotting scopes from about a mile away.

"Wolves are my main thing. There's something about their eyes -- it's mystifying," said Ann Moore, who came from Ohio to fulfill a life-long wish to glimpse the animals.

Such encounters have become daily occurrences in Yellowstone after gray wolves rebounded in parts of the American West with remarkable speed following their reintroduction 25 years ago.

It started with a few dozen wolves brought in crates from Canada to Yellowstone and central Idaho. Others wandered down into northwest Montana. Thriving on big game herds, the population boomed to more than 300 packs comprising some 2,000 wolves, occupying territory that touches six states and stretches from the edge of the Great Plains to the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Now the 2020 election offers an opportunity to jumpstart the wolf's expansion southward into the heart of the Rocky Mountains. A Colorado ballot initiative would reintroduce wolves on the state's Western Slope. It comes after the Trump administration on Thursday lifted protections for wolves across most of the U.S., including Colorado, putting their future in the hands of state wildlife agencies.

The Colorado effort, if successful, could fill a significant gap in the species' historical range, creating a bridge between the Northern Rockies gray wolves and a small Mexican gray wolf population in Arizona and New Mexico.

"Colorado is the mother lode, the final piece," said Mike Phillips, who led the Yellowstone reintroduction project and now serves in the Montana Senate.

### WOLF FEARS IN COLORADO

Yet the prospect of wolves is riling Colorado livestock producers, who see the predators as a threat their forbears vanquished once from the high elevation forests where cattle graze public lands. Hunters worry they'll decimate herds of elk and deer.

It's a replay of animosity that broke out a quarter-century ago when federal wildlife officials released the first wolves into Yellowstone. The species had been annihilated across most of the contiguous U.S. in the early 1900s by government-sponsored poisoning, trapping and bounty hunting.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 36 of 73

Initiative opponents have seized on sightings of a handful of wolves in recent years in northwestern Colorado as evidence the predator already has arrived and reintroduction isn't necessary.

"We can live with a few wolves. It's the massive amount that scares me," said Janie VanWinkle, a rancher in Mesa County near Grand Junction, Colorado.

VanWinkle's great grandparents shot wolves up until the early 1940s, she said, when the last wolves in Colorado were killed. The family runs cattle on two promontories with names from that era -- Wolf Hill and Dead Horse Point, where VanWinkle said her great grandfather's horse was killed by wolves while he was fixing a fence.

"I try to relate that to millennials: That would be like someone stealing your car," she said. "He had to walk home 10, 15 miles in the dark, carrying his saddle, knowing there's wolves out there. So of course they killed wolves on sight."

Mesa County's population has increased more than five-fold since wolves last roamed there, to more than 150,000, and VanWinkle sees little room for the animals among farms in the Colorado River valley and the growing crowds of backcountry recreationists on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Colorado's population is approaching 6 million — almost twice as much as Idaho, Montana and Wyoming combined — and is expected to surpass 8 million by 2040.

"Things have changed," VanWinkle said.

The pack that showed up in northwest Colorado last year is believed to have come from the Northern Rockies through Wyoming, where wolves can be killed at will outside the Yellowstone region.

Even with protections under the Endangered Species Act, thousands of wolves were shot over the past two decades for preying on livestock and, more recently, by hunters.

## YELLOWSTONE RECOVERY

But rancor that long defined wolf restoration in the region has faded somewhat since protections were lifted in recent years. Opponents were given the chance to legally hunt wolves, while advocates learned state wildlife officials weren't bent on eliminating the animals from the landscape as some had feared.

"I've got a simple message: It's not that bad," said Yellowstone wolf biologist Doug Smith, who with Phillips brought the first wolves into the park in 1995 and has followed their impacts on the landscape perhaps as closely as anyone.

"I got yelled at, at public meetings," he said. "I got phone calls: 'They are going to kill all the elk and deer!' Where are we 25 years in? We still have elk and deer."

On a cold October morning, after examining remains of the bison eaten by the Junction Butte pack near a park road, Smith asked a co-worker to have the carcass dragged deeper into brush so it wouldn't attract wolves and other scavengers that could be hit by a vehicle.

Later, as the sun struggled to break through cloud banks, he hiked up a trail in the park's Lamar River valley to where the first wolves from Canada were released.

The animals initially were kept in a large outdoor pen to adjust to their new surroundings. The pen's now in disrepair, sections of chain-link fence crushed by fallen trees. But Smith was able to show where wolf pups had once tried to dig their way out, and another spot outside the enclosure where some freed adult wolves had tried to dig back in.

All around were young stands of aspen trees. The area had been overgrazed by elk during the years when wolves and most grizzly bears and cougars were absent -- direct evidence, Smith said, of the profound ecological impact from the predators' return.

## EUROPE DEBATES WOLF RETURN

Yellowstone's experience with wolves has spurred debate among European scientists over whether a gradual comeback of wolves on the continent could also revitalize landscapes there, and be welcomed or at least tolerated by local people, said Frans Schepers, with Rewilding Europe, which works to restore ecosystems in multiple countries. There have been no European wolf reintroductions to date, but land-use changes coupled with fewer hunting and poisoning campaigns have allowed populations to begin rebounding naturally in several countries.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 37 of 73

Since 2015, wolf packs that traveled over the Baltics have established three or four packs in the Netherlands and packs in neighboring Germany and Belgium. Government programs provide money for Dutch farmers to erect fences to deter wolves.

In the British Isles, where the last wolves were exterminated in the 1700s, a wilderness reserve in Scotland is seeking permission to bring wolves to about 78 square miles (200 square kilometers) of fenced enclosure to help control a runaway deer population and draw tourists.

Alladale Wilderness Reserve owner Paul Lister views Yellowstone, where wolves controlled elk numbers, as a model.

"All the native predators are gone," Lister said of the Scottish reserve.

## THE BALLOT BATTLE

In Colorado, hunting outfitter Dean Billington foresees economic disaster if the 2020 wolf initiative passes. His Kremmling-based Bull Basin Guides & Outfitters is ideally situated for one of the state's largest trophy elk herds, the White River elk herd. He estimates his firm alone spends more than \$250,000 a year for hunting leases on ranches.

"They're land wealthy and day-to-day poor," Billington said of ranch owners. "This income keeps the western ranching guys afloat."

The initiative calls for initially introducing 10 wolves annually by Dec. 31, 2023, with a goal of 250 wolves within a decade.

"You're putting wolves in my backyard," Billington said of supporters of the reintroduction initiative. "They say they'll compensate for lost cattle and sheep, but how would it feel for these people in Denver if their dog in the back yard was mauled to death by the wolf and someone throws a few bucks at you to make you feel better?"

Rob Edward with the Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund, the group behind the initiative, sees reintroduction as a national rather than state issue since it involves public lands that account for 70% of western Colorado.

"Colorado's public lands are diminished without wolves," he said.

The Yellowstone experience is key to his group's arguments: Reintroduction restores balance to the ecosystem, improves wildlife habitat and will benefit hunters by thinning out weaker prey.

Standing in the decaying pen where Yellowstone's wolves got their start, Smith said that if the Colorado reintroduction initiative passes, success ultimately rests more on human tolerance than the animals' proven biological resiliency.

"Don't recover wolves unless there's areas where you can leave them alone," he said.

---

Anderson reported from Denver and Larson from Washington, D.C..

---

On Twitter follow Brown: @MatthewBrownAP; Anderson: @jandersonAP, and Larson: @larsonchristina

---

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.

## **An Election Day role for National Guard? Maybe, but limited**

By ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal laws and long-standing custom generally leave the U.S. military out of the election process. But President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated warnings about widespread voting irregularities have raised questions about a possible military role.

If any element of the military were to get involved, it would likely be the National Guard under state control. These citizen soldiers could help state or local law enforcement with any major election-related violence. But the Guard's more likely roles will be less visible — filling in as poll workers, out of uniform, and providing cybersecurity expertise in monitoring potential intrusions into election systems.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 38 of 73

Unlike regular active-duty military, the Guard answers to its state's governor, not the president. Under limited circumstances, Trump could federalize them, but in that case, they would generally be barred from doing law enforcement.

A look at the potential National Guard role in the election:

## WHAT MIGHT THE GUARD DO?

Governors could activate the Guard to help with security in the event of violence. That happened this week in Pennsylvania amid demonstrations over the police killing of Walter Wallace Jr. in Philadelphia. The mayor's office said the city requested that the Pennsylvania National Guard help with "the current situation and election preparation."

In some states, Guard members in civilian clothes were used as poll workers during primary elections because of shortages caused by the pandemic. The Guard in New Jersey is helping with balloting now, and other states including Wisconsin say they may use the Guard at the polls.

Stephen Dycus, professor emeritus at Vermont Law School, said states can, if necessary, deploy uniformed Guard troops to help keep order at the polls. But, he said, "there's a very fine line between protection and intimidation. So any activity that is designed to intimidate voters or suppress voting violates federal election laws."

In preparation for any emergencies, including civil unrest surrounding the election, the National Guard has already designated military police units in two states to serve as rapid-reaction forces. According to the Guard, about 600 troops — 300 in both Alabama and Arizona — will be ready to deploy within 24 hours if requested by a governor in another state. National Guard leaders have bought additional protective equipment and have increased troop training on proper procedures during protests.

## COULD TRUMP FEDERALIZE THE GUARD?

Federal law permits a president to federalize the Guard under very limited circumstances, including when he is "unable with the regular forces to execute the laws of the United States." This language may be open to interpretation, but in the context of next week's election, it appears to allow federalization only if there is a fundamental breakdown in state and local officials' ability to conduct voting and vote counting.

If the president federalizes Guard troops, they are then under his control, not the governor's. And the president can order them into a state without the governor's permission.

William Banks, professor at Syracuse University College of Law, said that sending uniformed troops to the polls, including the Guard, would be unwise.

"The overriding point is that we don't want the military involved in our civilian affairs. It just cuts against the grain of our history, our conditions, our values, our laws," he said.

## WHAT ABOUT THE ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY?

Senior military and defense leaders have said repeatedly that they believe there is no role for America's active-duty troops in an election.

Legal experts say two laws expressly forbid the use of active-duty or federalized National Guard troops at the polls. Banks said one law criminalizes the use of military at the polls unless it is "necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States." A second law prohibits any voting interference or intimidation at the polls by armed forces.

Under the Posse Comitatus Act, active-duty troops cannot be used for civil law enforcement. A president can, in extreme cases, invoke the rarely used Insurrection Act to use the military for law enforcement. If Trump were to invoke the Insurrection Act in a situation short of an extreme emergency, he might face resistance from Pentagon leaders and could also face a swift court challenge.

During civil unrest in June, Trump considered invoking that act to use active-duty troops for law enforcement. Military leaders were opposed; it never happened.

Dycus said the Insurrection Act can be used only if civil law enforcement can't handle the problem. And Banks said the president would first have to issue a proclamation calling for the violence to stop.

## WHAT ARE STATES PLANNING?

Many states say they have no plans to activate their Guard for election duties, while a few have already done so. Army Brig. Gen. Robyn Blader, an assistant adjutant general with the Wisconsin National Guard,

said Wednesday that state officials had made no decision on whether to use Guard members as poll workers, which they did in three elections this year because of COVID-19 problems.

Maj. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac, who as Nebraska's adjutant general is the head of its National Guard, told reporters his state sees no prospect of Guard forces being federalized during the election. He said governors are already considering contingencies, "and they would be the focal point for any use of National Guard for any civil unrest or disturbance following the election."

In Delaware and Washington state, Guard members will provide election-related cybersecurity assistance. In Tennessee, the Guard is opening drill facilities in rural areas for use as polling stations, but the Guard will play no direct role.

And in Ohio, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine says he'll do what's needed.

"I will not hesitate if a mayor requests that help," he said, adding that if law enforcement asks for help, "we'll have that discussion, and then we can certainly deploy the National Guard. We hope that that's not necessary."

---

Associated Press writers Mike Catalini in Trenton, N.J., Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, and Randall Chase in Dover, Del., contributed to this report.

## Two same-sex couples in military marry in first for Taiwan

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (AP) — Two lesbian couples tied the knot in a mass wedding held by Taiwan's military on Friday in a historic celebration with their peers.

Taiwan is the only place in Asia to have legalized same-sex marriage, with more than 4,000 such couples marrying since the legislation passed in May 2019. The mass wedding with 188 couples was the first time same-sex couples have been wed and celebrated at a military ceremony.

Both couples viewed their ceremonies with a sense of responsibility towards representing the LGBT community.

"We are hoping that more LGBT people in the military can bravely stand up, because our military is very open-minded. In matters of love, everyone will be treated equally," said Chen Ying-hsuan, 27, an army lieutenant who married Li Li-chen, 26.

Chen wore a rainbow wristband and said she has always been open about her sexual orientation while serving.

The ceremony at an army base in the northern city of Taoyuan was brief. The couples took part in a parade and then exchanged rings in front of an audience of family members and their senior officers.

Yumi Meng, 37, and her wife, army Maj. Wang Yi, 36, wiped back tears as they exchanged rings. Meng wore sneakers under her wedding dress, while Wang wore her officer's uniform. They each carried a pride flag throughout the ceremony.

Meng's parents had not come to the celebration, but in support both of Wang's parents as well as her teacher came out to support the couple.

"I really feel that this is a huge breakthrough for the military because before gay people really had to go through a lot," said Amy Chao, mother to Wang. "Perhaps for heterosexual couples, it's just a paper, but it's very important for gay couples, if you're sick or have to have a major surgery, if you don't have this, then you are nothing, you can't make a decision."

Since same-sex marriage became legal in Taiwan, 4,021 such couples have married, with 69% of them lesbian couples, according to the most recent government data.

The military seemed an unlikely institution to be the site of a same-sex marriage, but in recent years has opened up, said Victoria Hsu, the Co-founder of Taiwan Alliance to Promote Civil Partnership Rights. "We hope this is a good sign to show that the armed forces' attitude towards the LGBT community is becoming more supportive than before in Taiwan."

That attitude was on full display Friday as it welcomed dozens of reporters to the wedding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 40 of 73

"Our attitude is that everyone should be treated equally, and we congratulate each and every couple, and this shows that our military's position is open-minded, progressive and with the times," Lt. Gen. Yang An told reporters at the wedding.

## Trump tests limits as Cabinet members fan out to key states

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos planned a "Moms for Trump" rally in her home state of Michigan. The Department of Homeland Security's top official was in Texas to celebrate completion of a section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall. The chief of the Environmental Protection Agency headed to North Carolina after visiting Georgia the day before.

That was just Thursday.

Members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet are logging extra miles as mostly unofficial campaign surrogates in crucial states in the final days before Tuesday's election, blending politics and policy in ways that critics say skirt established norms and may even violate the law.

It's long been one of the benefits of incumbency that a president can enlist his Cabinet to promote administration accomplishments. But only to a point, with a law on the books since 1939 requiring a division between political and official activities for all federal employees except the president and vice president.

"The Trump administration has completely obliterated that line," said Austin Evers, executive director of American Oversight, which describes itself as a nonpartisan watchdog organization. "The White House is now the seat of government, where the president lives, and one of his chief campaign props. And that erosion of norms has spread throughout the entire administration."

This criticism isn't new, but it's intensified in recent months. The administration, which came under fire for using the White House as a backdrop for the president's acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention, insists it is adhering to the law known as the Hatch Act.

"The Trump administration takes the Hatch Act seriously and all events are conducted in compliance with the law," White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

But already, at least one member of the administration has run afoul of the decades-old law in recent weeks.

The Office of Special Counsel, led by a Trump appointee, concluded this month that Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue violated the law at a North Carolina event in August where his remarks in support of the president devolved into crowd chants of "four more years." Perdue was ordered to reimburse the government for costs associated with the trip.

"He turned an official event into a campaign one," by tying aid to farmers to reelecting Trump, said Jordan Libowitz, communications director for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which filed complaint with that federal office over Perdue's appearance.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo could be next.

Two New York Democrats, Reps. Eliot L. Engel and Rep. Nita Lowey, said this week that the same office was investigating the speech that America's top diplomat made to the GOP convention from Israel. The office declined comment and the State Department noted that a previous Hatch Act complaint against Pompeo was dismissed.

That Pompeo speech was among a number of appearances, including one in September in Wisconsin, that appeared to many observers to cast aside a long tradition of avoiding partisan politics by secretaries of state. But he's hardly alone, and the examples have proliferated in recent days.

Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette this week was visiting southwestern Pennsylvania -- a swing area in one of the most important battleground states -- for at least the third time since August. In an area closely tied to fracking, Brouillette didn't mention Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden by name but warned that efforts to develop renewable energy to address climate change could threaten "every form of energy besides renewables."

Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler has made repeated trips to closely contested



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 41 of 73

Michigan, including one to announce \$2 million in grant funding, where he criticized the Obama administration's response to the lead contamination crisis in Flint.

DeVos has made frequent visits to pivotal states such as Florida, Texas and Wisconsin, for discussions of efforts to reopen schools closed by the coronavirus pandemic and to promote school choice, an issue that Trump has focused on in hopes of appealing to Black voters. The announcement of her appearance at Thursday's "Moms for Trump" rally in Detroit referred to her as the "Honorable Betsy DeVos," not as education secretary for a clearly political event.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf was in South Texas to mark completion of 400 miles of border wall, one of the central themes of the Trump 2016 campaign. Wolf also has drawn scrutiny by holding news conferences in Pennsylvania and elsewhere to announce relatively minor immigration operations. American Oversight, in a letter Thursday, urged the Office of Special Counsel to investigate Wolf and other DHS officials.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie has traveled to a host of presidential and Senate battleground states in recent months, mixing in dedication ceremonies and other official business with a "fireside chat" and praise of vulnerable GOP incumbents. His activity has received criticism from congressional Democrats.

Other examples include national security adviser Robert O'Brien traveling to Minnesota and Wisconsin this month to discuss trade; senior Trump adviser Stephen Miller holding a conference call Wednesday with reporters and speaking "in his personal capacity" to discuss immigration policy; and Kayleigh McEnany doing double duty as White House press secretary and "Trump 2020 campaign adviser," as she was described in an appearance on "Fox & Friends" on Thursday.

Hatch Act violations can be referred to the Justice Department for a criminal investigation, but more typically result in administrative penalties. Evers, a former litigator and government lawyer, said lower-level staff should be concerned about the possible legal consequences of working on barely concealed political missions.

There could be electoral consequences as well. "The political calculation that go into these decisions could be very wrong," he said. "It should matter to the public that their apolitical government is being used for purely partisan ends. So it may not have the payoff they expect."

---

Associated Press writers Collin Binkley in Boston, Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Ellen Knickmeyer and Hope Yen in Washington contributed to this report.

## Illinois judge to rule on Rittenhouse extradition to Kenosha

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The mother of a 17-year-old accused of killing two demonstrators in Kenosha, Wisconsin, is among those slated to testify Friday during a hearing in Illinois to decide if her son should be extradited across the border to stand trial on homicide charges.

Kyle Rittenhouse's lawyers also planned to call an expert on self-defense, a prison-safety consultant and two former homicide detectives in a long shot bid to convince Judge Paul Novak in Waukegan, Illinois, not to turn their client over to Wisconsin authorities.

The case has become a rallying point for some conservatives who see Rittenhouse as a patriot who was exercising his right to bear arms during unrest in Kenosha following the shooting of a Black man by a white police officer. Others portray him as a domestic terrorist who incited protesters by showing up wielding a rifle.

State-to-state extraditions are typically formalities and judges rarely refuse to OK another state's request to transfer a suspect. Efforts to fight extradition are nearly always in vain but can help attorneys to buy time to compile evidence and prepare a defense.

A recent defense filing listing witnesses it wants to call at the hearing in the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan names Rittenhouse's mom, Wendy Rittenhouse. The documents didn't offer details, saying she would discuss the circumstances of her son's arrest.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 42 of 73

Prosecutors aren't expected to call anyone to the witness stand, saying in filings of their own that it's the role of a Wisconsin judge, not one in Illinois, to gauge whether there are sufficient grounds for charges.

The most serious charge Rittenhouse faces in Wisconsin is first-degree intentional homicide for fatally shooting two protesters, which carries a life prison sentence. He is also charged with attempted intentional homicide in the wounding of a third protesters, as well as a misdemeanor charge of underage firearm possession.

The killings occurred Aug. 25, two days after a police officer trying to arrest Jacob Blake shot him seven times in the back after a brief scuffle, leaving Blake paralyzed from the waist down. A video of the shooting posted online sparked outrage and helped spur on the protests.

Rittenhouse and the man he allegedly injured are white, as were the two men killed.

A day after the shooting, Rittenhouse surrendered to police in his Illinois hometown of Antioch, just across the Wisconsin border and some 10 miles (16.09 kilometers) southwest of Kenosha.

Lawyers for Rittenhouse have argued he was acting in self-defense and that extraditing him to Wisconsin would violate his constitutional rights.

In one filing, they complained that Rittenhouse had been "publicly branded a 'mass murderer,' a 'terrorist,' a 'racist,' and more." At a hearing in the case in early October, Rittenhouse attorney John Pierce said "this is not a legitimate criminal prosecution, it is a political prosecution." Defense lawyers have also said his extradition would be akin to turning him "over to the mob."

The Rittenhouse defense team was broaching "irrelevant and inflammatory 'facts' which are solely meant to sway sympathy and public opinion through the media in favor of the defendant," Lake County Assistant State's Attorney Stephen Scheller responded in one recent filing.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed a warrant to return Rittenhouse to Wisconsin after a request from Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a fellow Democrat. Mike Nerheim, the Lake County state's attorney, has said he's never seen anyone fight extradition after the governor signed a warrant for it.

Legal experts say that on the rare occasions when state extradition cases have been contested, defense lawyers usually argue that either no crime was committed in the other state or that the defendant was not the person who committed whatever crime did occur.

According to prosecutors and court documents, Rittenhouse shot and killed 36-year-old Joseph Rosenbaum, of Kenosha, after Rosenbaum threw a plastic bag at Rittenhouse, missing him, and tried to wrestle his rifle away.

While trying to get away in the immediate aftermath, Rittenhouse was captured on cellphone video saying, "I just killed somebody." According to a complaint filed by prosecutors, someone in the crowd said, "Beat him up!" and another yelled, "Get him! Get that dude!"

Video shows that Rittenhouse tripped in the street. As he was on the ground, 26-year-old Anthony Huber, of Silver Lake, hit him with a skateboard and tried to take his rifle. Rittenhouse opened fire, killing Huber and wounding Gaige Grosskreutz, of West Allis, who was holding a handgun.

---

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>

## Police who shot Wallace were improperly trained, family says

Associated Press undefined

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The footage from body-worn cameras that was taken as police responded to a call about Walter Wallace Jr. shows him emerging from a house with a knife as relatives shout at officers about his mental health condition, a lawyer for the man's family said Thursday.

The video also shows Wallace became incapacitated after the first shot of 14 that two officers fired at him, said lawyer Shaka Johnson, describing footage he said police showed him and other members of Wallace's family before a plan to release it and 911 calls publicly.

"I understand he had a knife, but that does not give you carte blanche to execute a man, quite frankly," Johnson told reporters at a news conference outside Philadelphia City Hall. "What other than death did

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 43 of 73

you intend when you shoot a man — each officer — seven times apiece?”

The family does not want the officers, who have not yet been publicly identified, to be charged with murder, Johnson said, because they were improperly trained and didn't have the right equipment to do their job.

The video shows “instant panic” from officers whose training taught them only how to open fire, he said, noting he saw no viable attempt from officers to deescalate the situation.

“What you will not see is a man with a knife lunging at anyone that would qualify as a reason to assassinate him,” Johnson said.

The mayor's office said in a news release late Thursday that the body cam footage and the 911 audio would be released publicly by the end of next week.

Police also faced rebuke from Philadelphia leaders as the anguished city bemoaned the department's response to a year of extraordinary, and sometimes violent, civil unrest.

The City Council, joining leaders of other cities, voted to block police from using tear gas, rubber bullets or pepper spray on peaceful protesters after hearing hours of testimony from people injured or traumatized by them, including a group hit with tear gas as they were corralled near a highway overpass.

“It was undisciplined, it was indiscriminate and it hurt a lot of people,” said Council Member Helen Gym, who introduced the bill.

The moves follow days of protests, store break-ins and ATM thefts after the death of Wallace, a Black man, that led the mayor to lock down the city Wednesday night with an overnight curfew.

The family had called Monday for both medical services and police, but only the latter arrived, lawyer Shaka Johnson said. Less than 30 seconds into the encounter, Wallace was dead, felled by a blast of 14 bullets, he said.

Police have said the two officers fired after Wallace ignored orders to drop a knife. Wallace's mother and wife were outside, shouting to police about his mental health problems, Johnson said.

In a news conference Wednesday, Outlaw lamented the lack of a behavioral health unit in a department she joined only this year.

She pledged to address that need and also told the council that she supports the goal of their bill, which she said aligns with current police policy. Mayor Jim Kenney also supports the ban in principle but wants to review it before signing it into law, a spokesman said.

The city had a strong record of accommodating protesters in recent years, until the Black Lives Matter protests erupted in the city May 30, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Chaos and violent clashes ensued and broke out anew this week after Wallace's death in a predominantly Black section of west Philadelphia.

“The unjustified shooting of Walter Wallace Jr. this week has our city both raging and grieving, but also extraordinarily purposeful about taking action,” Gym said.

Several other cities across the U.S. have debated or enacted similar measures to limit the use of chemical sprays and rubber bullets against protesters.

Meanwhile, U.S. Attorney William McSwain, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, announced charges Thursday against a Philadelphia social studies teacher and three others for their alleged roles in the torching of two police cruisers during the May 30 protests.

According to McSwain, 29-year-old teacher Anthony Smith and two others put “combustible materials” into a cruiser near City Hall that was already on fire. Another man was charged separately with setting fire to a second cruiser. Smith helped organize the Philadelphia Coalition for Racial and Economic Legal Justice, known locally as Philly for REAL Justice.

Smith's lawyer, Paul Hetznecker, noted the arrest came five months after the incident and five days before “the most important presidential election of our time.”

## **New Zealand votes to legalize euthanasia but not marijuana**

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 44 of 73

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealanders voted to legalize euthanasia in a binding referendum, but preliminary results released Friday showed they likely would not legalize recreational marijuana use.

With about 83% of votes counted, New Zealanders emphatically endorsed the euthanasia measure with 65% voting in favor and 34% voting against.

The “No” vote on marijuana was much closer, with 53% voting against legalizing the drug for recreational use and 46% voting in favor. That left open a slight chance the measure could still pass once all special votes were counted next week, although it would require a huge swing.

The two referendums represented significant potential changes to New Zealand’s social fabric, although the campaigns for each ended up getting overshadowed somewhat by the coronavirus pandemic and a parallel political race, in which Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her liberal Labour Party won a second term in a landslide.

In past elections, special votes — which include those cast by overseas voters — have tended to track more liberal than general votes, giving proponents of marijuana legalization some hope the measure could still pass.

Proponents of legalizing the drug were frustrated that Ardern wouldn’t reveal how she intended to vote ahead the Oct. 17 ballot. Many believed an endorsement by Ardern could have boosted support for the measure, but she said she wanted to leave the decision to New Zealanders. Ardern said Friday after the results were released that she had voted in favor of both referendums.

Conservative lawmaker Nick Smith, from the opposition National Party, welcomed the preliminary marijuana result.

“This is a victory for common sense. Research shows cannabis causes mental health problems, reduced motivation and educational achievement, and increased road and workplace deaths,” he said. “New Zealanders have rightly concluded that legalizing recreational cannabis would normalize it, make it more available, increase its use and cause more harm.”

But liberal lawmaker Chlöe Swarbrick, from the Green Party, said they had long assumed the vote would be close and they needed to wait until the special votes were counted.

“We have said from the outset that this would always come down to voter turnout. We’ve had record numbers of special votes, so I remain optimistic,” she said. “New Zealand has had a really mature and ever-evolving conversation about drug laws in this country and we’ve come really far in the last three years.”

Proponents had argued the measure would reduce profits for gangs and improve social and legal outcomes for indigenous Maori.

The euthanasia measure, which would also allow assisted suicide and takes effect in November 2021, would apply to adults who have terminal illnesses, are likely to die within six months, and are enduring “unbearable” suffering. Other countries that allow some form of euthanasia include The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Belgium and Colombia.

“It is a victory for all New Zealand as we become a more compassionate and humane society,” said lawmaker David Seymour, of the libertarian ACT Party. “Thousands of New Zealanders who might have suffered excruciating deaths will have choice, dignity, control, and autonomy over their own bodies, protected by the rule of law.”

But Dr. John Kleinsman, an ethicist for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, said the vote put vulnerable people on a dangerous path. He said the mere option of euthanasia would be a burden and pressure for many ailing people and their families, as well as for healthcare and religious workers.

The marijuana measure would allow people to buy up to 14 grams (0.5 ounce) a day and grow two plants. It was a non-binding vote, so if voters approved it, legislation would have to be passed to implement it. Ardern had promised to respect the outcome and bring forward the legislation, if it was necessary.

Other countries that have legalized or decriminalized recreational marijuana include Canada, South Africa, Uruguay, Georgia plus a number of U.S. states.

## Harris target of more misinformation than Pence, data shows

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 45 of 73

CHICAGO (AP) — Long before Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden announced her as his running mate, Kamala Harris was the target of widespread online misinformation.

Social media posts included racist claims that she was ineligible to serve in the White House or that she was lying about her Black and Indian heritage. Her mother is from India and her father from Jamaica.

Since being named to the presidential ticket, Harris has been at the center of online misinformation campaigns four times as much as the white men who campaigned for the job in the last four years, according to a report from media intelligence firm Signal Labs shared exclusively with The Associated Press.

"The narratives related to Kamala Harris zeroed in much more on her personal identity, especially as a woman of color," said Jennifer Granston, head of insights at Signal Labs.

The firm identified more than 1 million mentions since June on Twitter of Harris with hashtags or terms associated with misinformation about her. The mentions include fact checks that rebuffed the falsehoods, but those made up only a small portion of that conversation.

Nearly 300,000 of those mentions were about Harris' eligibility to serve as president, according to Signal's findings. The AP identified that false claim circulating online in January 2019, when Harris announced she was running for president.

The untrue assertion got a huge boost again, however, in August when President Donald Trump elevated it from his presidential podium.

Harris' birth certificate shows she was born on Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, California, making her eligible to serve as either vice president or president. Social media chatter around Harris' eligibility declined after being "eclipsed" by fact checks from news organizations that debunked it, Granston added.

There's been a huge uptick in social media conversation around the vice presidential candidates this year, compared to the 2016 campaign. From July to October, Harris and Republican Vice President Mike Pence have been mentioned almost 48 million times combined on Twitter, compared to only 12 million total mentions of Pence or Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, who was the Democratic vice presidential nominee four years ago.

Misinformation accounted for less than 1% of Twitter talk when Pence and Kaine were running in 2016. The same goes for Pence this year, with most of the misleading claims around him centered on the idea that he supports gay conversion therapy, which Pence has repeatedly denied.

But misinformation around Harris has been more prevalent, making up more than 4% of the conversation on Twitter, Signal Labs found.

That's largely been driven by sexist or racist narratives that have swirled online around Harris, who is the first Black and Indian woman running for vice president, said Nina Jankowicz, a disinformation fellow at the nonpartisan Wilson Center.

Some of those social media posts push the idea that Harris, a California senator, used her romantic relationships to advance her career. That narrative gained popularity with hashtags like #HeelsUpHarris, which is used regularly by conservative influencers who have millions of followers. Signal Labs found nearly 350,000 mentions on Twitter of hashtags or terms related to that narrative.

And Jankowicz has identified dozens of memes circulating on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that superimpose photos of Harris onto images of sex workers or use sexist slurs to describe her. Her preliminary research shows that during the Oct. 7 vice presidential debate, hashtags using sexual or violent terms for Harris skyrocketed on fringe social media platforms like Parler by 631% and 4chan by 1,078%.

"Time and time again when we see these narratives being used against women in public life, it's meant to take women who are powerful and respected and knock them down a few pegs," Jankowicz said.

## As virus surges, Trump rallies keep packing in thousands

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are no crowds at Disneyland, still shut down by the coronavirus. Fewer fans attended the World Series this year than at any time in the past century. Big concerts are canceled.

But it's a different story in Trumpland. Thousands of President Donald Trump's supporters regularly cram together at campaign rallies around the country — masks optional and social distancing frowned upon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 46 of 73

Trump rallies are among the nation's biggest events being held in defiance of crowd restrictions designed to stop the virus from spreading. This at a time when public health experts are advising people to think twice even about inviting many guests for Thanksgiving dinner.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, when you have congregate settings where people are crowded together and virtually no one is wearing a mask, that's a perfect setup to have an outbreak of acquisition and transmissibility," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, recently told Yahoo News. "It's a public health and scientific fact."

The Trump campaign, which distributes masks and hand sanitizer at its rallies, says those who attend are peaceful protesters who, just like Black Lives Matter demonstrators, have a right to assemble. The president says he wants to get the country back to normal.

Some states have fined venues that host Trump rallies for violating caps on crowd size. But the rallies continue — even as the U.S. sees cases spike, especially in the Midwest and the Plains. The nation posted a record high number of new infections last week — nearly 500,000.

And the crowds keep turning out for Trump.

Ysabel Benejam, 69, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, drove about 90 minutes to Lansing and waited more than four hours in rainy, near-freezing temperatures to see Trump on Tuesday.

"I'm not afraid at all," said Benejam, wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and a mask emblazoned with "Trump 2020." "We need to step back into normality."

Democrat Joe Biden, in contrast, has shunned rallies and instead holds online and drive-in events where people honk their horns to show support. He calls the Trump rallies "super-spreader events" and says he's listening to the warnings of public health experts.

Since Feb. 7, when Trump told author Bob Woodward that he knew the coronavirus was airborne and deadlier than the flu, the president has hosted more than 50 rallies in more than two dozen states. They were halted during most of March, April and May because of the pandemic. After they resumed in late June, they were held primarily outdoors at airports.

Mask use is spotty. Some people cover their mouths but not their noses. And by the end of Trump's hour-plus speeches, some masks are slung low around people's chins. The campaign makes a point to ask people sitting behind Trump — and likely to be captured on camera — to wear masks, but they don't always comply.

Pete Kingsley, 80, of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, was not wearing a mask as he approached the security line at Trump's rally Monday in Lititz. He said he believes the virus is being hyped to hurt Trump's chance of reelection and to "bash the economy — destroy it."

"If I need to put a mask on, I'll put it on," he said. "If I don't, I won't put it on."

Lita Ciaccio, 65, of Laurel, Maryland, was concerned about contracting the virus but showed up anyway. She arrived wearing a mask and plastic face shield and said she planned to stand on the "edges" of the crowd.

Not all locals are happy to have Trump come to town.

Trump held a rally Sept. 25 in Newport News, Virginia, even though public health officials warned that it would violate Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's executive order generally banning gatherings of more than 250 people.

Zach Nayer, a resident at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, and a colleague later compiled county data on new coronavirus cases at Trump rally sites from late June to the Newport News event. They reviewed the number of cases for the 14 days before and after each event and published their findings on the health news site STAT.

They found that spikes in COVID-19 cases occurred in seven of the 14 cities and townships where rallies were held: Tulsa, Oklahoma; Phoenix; Old Forge, Pennsylvania; Bemidji and Mankato in Minnesota; and Oshkosh and Weston, Wisconsin.

The researchers acknowledged, however, that increased caseloads could not be definitely linked to the rallies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 47 of 73

"We've had a huge increase in cases in the past six to eight weeks," said Judy Burrows, public information officer for the health department in Marathon County, which includes Weston, Wisconsin.

She said the department is far behind in processing individual cases and has not been able to do a complete job in tracing back to where people contracted the virus. A lot of people in the community are attending mass gatherings, but the health department doesn't have data suggesting that one is more to blame than another, she said.

"It's not about Trump. It's not about Biden or anyone else running for office right now," Burrows said. "The problem is people are going to places where there are lots of other people. They're not masking. They're not social distancing. They're not doing the kinds of things that can slow the spread."

The Trump rallies have irked Democrats in battleground states, including Christopher Gibbs, a farmer in Maplewood, Ohio, who voted for Trump in 2016 but now supports Biden.

Gibbs is president of a new group called Rural America 2020, which sponsored dozens of billboards around the country to elevate issues important to rural residents. After the president returned to the campaign trail, the group decided to repurpose the billboards and use them to warn residents about the risks of his events.

The group also had a plane tow a long banner over Omaha, Nebraska, before Tuesday's rally there. It said: "Warning! Superspreader Trump Visiting NE. Mask Up!"

In Minnesota, Democratic Gov. Tim Walz said he was "deeply disappointed" to learn that compliance with the state's masking and social distancing guidance was poor at Vice President Mike Pence's rally Monday in the city of Hibbing.

The Trump campaign paid \$1,000 to get the rally site, according to a contract with the airport that included a provision that the rally conform to Minnesota restrictions. Hibbing police estimated the crowd at 650 — well beyond the state's 250-person limit due to COVID-19.

The Minnesota Department of Health says 24 coronavirus cases have been reported among people who attended large Trump campaign events in the state, including 16 at a rally in Bemidji. The department said four more cases were reported among anti-Trump protesters who attended the Bemidji rally.

Concerned about the spread of the coronavirus, Treworgy Family Orchards in Levant, Maine, voiced regrets this week about Trump's visit to their business on Sunday.

The orchard said it expected the president to make an unannounced visit, surprise a few people and take photos with pumpkins. Instead, word got out and hundreds of people — many without masks — showed up and lined the motorcade route to the orchard, which has a mask and social distance policy.

"We were not aware that this visit would be open to the public without our ability to enforce our policies," the orchard said. "All enforcement of the farm was handled by the Secret Service, and by the time crowds began to gather, our staff was not able to move freely."

---

Associated Press writers Tom Tait in Las Vegas, Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis and Amer Madhani and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Tunisian carrying Quran fatally stabs 3 in French church

By LORI HINNANT and DANIEL COLÉ Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — A young Tunisian man armed with a knife and carrying a copy of the Quran attacked worshippers in a French church and killed three Thursday, prompting the government to raise its security alert to the maximum level hours before a nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

The attack in Mediterranean city of Nice was the third in less than two months that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class after the images were re-published by a satirical newspaper targeted in a 2015 attack.

Thursday's attacker was seriously wounded by police and hospitalized in life-threatening condition after the killings at the Notre Dame Basilica. The imposing edifice is located half a mile (less than a kilometer)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 48 of 73

from the site where another attacker plowed a truck into a crowd on France's national day in 2016, killing dozens.

President Emmanuel Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers deployed to protect schools and religious sites from around 3,000 to 7,000.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said the suspect is a Tunisian born in 1999 who reached the Italian island of Lampedusa, a key landing point for migrants crossing in boats from North Africa, on Sept. 20 and traveled to Bari, a port city in southern Italy, on Oct. 9. Prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard did not specify when he arrived in Nice.

In Tunisia, the anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said an investigation was being opened on the "suspected commission of a terrorist crime by a Tunisian ... outside national borders," the official TAP news agency quoted the prosecutor's office as saying.

The French prosecutor said the attacker was not on the radar of intelligence agencies as a potential threat.

Video cameras recorded the man entering the Nice train station at 6:47 a.m., where he changed his shoes and turned his coat inside out before heading for the church, some 400 meters (yards) away, just before 8:30 a.m.

Ricard said the attacker was carrying a copy of Islam's holy book and two telephones. A knife with a 17-centimeter blade used in the attack was found near him along with a bag containing another two knives that were not used in the attack.

He had spent some 30 minutes inside the church before police arrived via a side entrance and "after advancing down a corridor they came face-to-face with (the attacker) whom they neutralized," Ricard said.

Witnesses heard the man crying "Allahu Akbar" as he advanced on police. Police initially used an electric gun then fired their service revolvers. Ricard said 14 bullet casings were found on the ground.

Ricard detailed a gruesome scene inside the church where two of the victims died. A 60-year-old woman suffered "a very deep throat slitting, like a decapitation," he said, and a 55-year-old man also suffered deep, fatal throat cuts. The third victim, a 44-year-old woman, managed to flee the church alive but died at a nearby restaurant.

Laurent Martin de Fremont, of the police union Unité SGP Police said the man was a sacristan at the basilica.

The three were killed "only because they were in the church at that moment," Ricard told reporters. He said investigators are looking for potential complicity in the "complex" probe.

An investigation was opened for murder and attempted murder in connection with a terrorist enterprise, a common term for such crimes.

The attack in Nice came amid a fierce debate in France and beyond over the re-publication of the Muhammad caricatures by satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The French consulate in the Saudi city of Jiddah was also targeted Thursday, a man claiming allegiance to an anti-immigrant group was shot and killed by police in the southern French city of Avignon, and scattered confrontations were reported elsewhere, but it is unclear whether they were linked to the attack in Nice.

France's national police chief had ordered increased security at churches and mosques earlier this week, but no police appeared to be guarding the Nice church when it was attacked, and Associated Press reporters saw no visible security forces at multiple prominent religious sites in Paris. French churches have been ferociously attacked by extremists in recent years. Thursday's killings come ahead of the Roman Catholic All Saints' holiday.

It was the third attack since Charlie Hebdo republished the caricatures in September as the trial opened for the 2015 attacks at the paper's offices and a kosher supermarket. The gunmen in that attack claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, which both recently called anew for strikes against France.

A verdict is planned for Nov. 13, the fifth anniversary of another series of deadly Islamic State attacks in Paris.

The recent attacks come amid renewed outcry over depictions of Islam's most revered prophet — whose



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 49 of 73

birthday was marked in several countries Thursday — and the French government's fierce defense of the right to publish and show them. Muslims have held protests in several countries and called for a boycott of French goods.

"With the attack against Samuel Paty, it was freedom of speech that was targeted," Prime Minister Jean Castex told lawmakers Thursday, referring to the teacher who was beheaded after showing his class caricatures of the prophet during a civics lesson. "With this attack in Nice, it is freedom of religion."

Macron left for Nice almost immediately and, standing before the basilica, said, "Very clearly, it is France which is under attack." He added that all of France offered its support to Catholics "so that their religion can be exercised freely in our country. So that every religion can be practiced."

In Avignon on Thursday morning, a man with a firearm was shot and killed by police after he refused to drop his weapon and a warning shot failed to stop him, a police official said. And a Saudi state-run news agency said a man stabbed a guard at the French consulate in Jiddah, wounding the guard before he was arrested.

While many groups and nations have been angered or frustrated by France's position on the cartoons, several issued their condolences Thursday, as did France's traditional allies.

The French Council of the Muslim Faith called on French Muslims to refrain from festivities marking the birth of Muhammad "as a sign of mourning and in solidarity with the families of victims and the Catholics of France."

Turkey's Foreign Ministry also strongly condemned the attack. "We stand in solidarity with the people of France against terror and violence," the statement said.

Relations between Turkey and France hit a new low after Turkey's president accused Macron of Islamophobia over the caricatures and questioned his mental health, prompting Paris to recall its ambassador to Turkey for consultations.

Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, said in a tweet: "We strongly condemn today's terrorist attack in #Nice." In an apparent reference to the caricatures, he tweeted that "This escalating vicious cycle -- hate speech, provocations & violence -- must be replaced by reason & sanity."

The attack in Nice came less than two weeks after Paty, the teacher, was beheaded. In September, a man who had sought asylum in France attacked bystanders outside Charlie Hebdo's former offices with a butcher knife.

French Jewish and Catholic sites have also frequently been targeted, including the killing of the Rev. Jacques Hamel, who had his throat slit while celebrating Mass in his Normandy church by Islamic militants and a plot to bomb Paris' Notre Dame cathedral. Those attacks were claimed by the Islamic State group, which also is believed to have recruited a man now on trial for an unsuccessful plot to attack a church.

---

Hinnant reported from Paris. Associated Press writers Angela Charlton and Thomas Adamson and Elaine Ganley in Paris, Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul and Bouazza Ben Bouazza in Tunis, Tunisia contributed to this report.

## Zeta soaks Southeast after swamping Gulf Coast; 6 dead

By JEFF AMY and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Millions of people were without power and at least six were dead Thursday after Hurricane Zeta slammed into Louisiana and made a beeline across the South, leaving shattered buildings, thousands of downed trees and fresh anguish over a record-setting hurricane season.

From the bayous of the Gulf Coast to Atlanta and beyond, Southerners used to dealing with dangerous weather were left to pick up the pieces once again just days ahead of an election in which early voting continued despite the storm.

In Atlanta and New Orleans, drivers dodged trees in roads and navigated intersections without traffic signals. In Lakeshore, Mississippi, Ray Garcia returned home to find a shrimp boat washed up and resting against its pilings

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 50 of 73

"I don't even know if insurance is going to pay for this," Garcia said. "I don't know what this boat has done."

As many as 2.6 million homes and businesses lost power across seven states, but the lights were coming back on slowly. The sun came out and temperatures cooled, but trees were still swaying as the storm's remnants blew through.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said the state sustained "catastrophic" damage on Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish, where Zeta punched three breaches in the levee. Edwards ordered the Louisiana National Guard to fly in soldiers to assist with search and rescue efforts and urged continued caution.

"Oddly enough, it isn't the storms that typically produce the most injuries and the fatalities. It's the cleanup efforts. It's the use of generators. It's the carbon monoxide poisoning. It's the electrocution that comes from power lines. So, now is the time to be very, very cautious out there," Edwards said.

Lines of cars stretched more than 20 deep at one of the few gas stations open in Marrero, Louisiana. The owner was using an industrial generator to run the pumps and accepting cash only.

"The wait is kind of ridiculous, but it is what it is, you know?" said resident Jeanne Guillory. "I have no lights. I have no idea how long I'll be without power. I'm hopeful that my generator gets fixed. That's why I'm coming to put gas in the tanks. If it doesn't, then I guess I just have a lot of gas to ride the four-wheeler."

A Category 2 hurricane when it hit the southeastern Louisiana coast Wednesday, Zeta weakened to a post-tropical storm by Thursday afternoon with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. The fast-moving storm was centered about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Cape May, New Jersey, and forecast to head east-northeast over the open Atlantic.

North Carolina and southeastern Virginia were still being buffeted with gusty winds, but Zeta was moving along at 53 mph (85 kph), meaning no single place was blasted too long.

Still, the latest punch from this historically busy hurricane season left people shaken.

Will Arute of New Orleans said it sounded like a bomb went off when part of a large oak snapped outside and crashed into his car and a corner of his home.

"I did not anticipate this to happen. It was pretty intense along the eyewall when it went through here," he said.

Mackenzie Umanzor didn't make many preparations because the last hurricane to threaten her home in D'Iberville, Mississippi, a few weeks ago, did little damage. Zeta blew open doors she had tried to barricade, leaving her with a cut hand, and the top of her shed came loose.

"You could hear the tin roof waving in the wind. ... And there was a couple of snaps, lots of cracks of branches and trees falling," she said. "It was pretty scary."

A man was electrocuted in New Orleans, and four people died in Alabama and Georgia when trees fell on homes, authorities said. They included two people who were left pinned to their bed, Gwinnett County fire officials said.

And in Biloxi, Mississippi, Leslie Richardson, 58, drowned when he was trapped in rising seawater after taking video of the raging storm. Richardson and another man exited a floating car and desperately clung to a tree before his strength "just gave out," Harrison County coroner Brian Switzer said.

Downed trees blocked lanes on two interstate highways in Atlanta, the Georgia Department of Transportation reported.

Small towns were hit, too.

Mayor Sheldon Day of Thomasville, Alabama, said hundreds of trees fell in roads and on homes, while some gas station canopies blew over.

"At one point, every major thoroughfare was blocked by trees," Day said.

Hundreds of miles away in North Carolina, a highway was blocked by a toppled tree in Winston-Salem, and Wake Forest University canceled classes for the day.

Zeta was the 27th named storm of a historically busy year with more than a month left in the Atlantic hurricane season. It set a new record as the 11th named storm to make landfall in the continental U.S. in

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 51 of 73

a single season, well beyond the nine storms that hit in 1916.

The heightened storm activity has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing wetter, stronger and more destructive storms.

Forecasters said disturbed air off the northern coast of South America could become a tropical depression and head toward Nicaragua by early next week.

With Election Day looming, far fewer early voters showed up after the storm in Pascagoula, Mississippi, a court clerk said, and power failures in two Georgia counties disrupted voting.

"We're still assessing the situation and obviously some counties will be delaying early voting this morning, but we don't see that there will be an overall impact on voting," Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said.

Thursday was the last day to request an absentee ballot or vote by absentee in person in Alabama, and voters, some holding umbrellas, waited outside county courthouses in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to cast ballots.

Just outside Richmond, Virginia, health and nutrition entrepreneur Shireese Borden, 28, waited in line for nearly an hour at an early-voting site as heavy rains from Zeta swept through. She hadn't expected the crowd of over 200 other people who were doing the same thing.

"I figured it would be kind of perfect," Borden said, "but apparently not."

---

This story has been corrected to fix a misspelling of Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards' name.

---

Santana reported from New Orleans. Associated Press contributors include Stacey Plaisance in Marrero, Louisiana; Gerald Herbert in Lakeshore, Mississippi; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Skip Foreman in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Leah Willingham in Jackson, Mississippi; Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia; Sophia Tulp and Desiree Mathurin in Atlanta.

## Paris Jackson mines her heartache for solo debut album

By BROOKE LEFFERTS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It started in her bedroom with just a guitar, but Paris Jackson has turned coping with the heartache after a recent breakup into her debut solo album.

Jackson, 22, has been a devoted music fan all her life and dabbled in making her own, but has been hesitant to call herself a singer-songwriter until now.

"It's one of the greatest feelings I've ever experienced," Jackson told the Associated Press in an exclusive interview this week.

She describes her ethereal acoustic sound as alternative folk — a far cry from the genre of her father, Michael Jackson. Being the daughter of the King of Pop adds an extra layer of scrutiny to the vulnerability required to put personal songs out into the world.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous, but I feel confident that the people that are supposed to hear this record are going to hear it. It's going to reach them. And with regards to critics and stuff, I don't really think they're going to know how to critique it," Jackson says.

Earlier this year, Jackson was one half of acoustic duo "The Soundflowers" with boyfriend Gabriel Glenn, until the two split. She describes nursing a broken heart as a literal "aching in your chest," but Jackson turned her pain into art. "You were my all/And now I fall to the ground," she sings on her new single "Let Down," which drops Friday.

The time in her bedroom resulted in 11 songs on the concept album, "Wilted," released by Republic Records, and out on Nov. 13. All the stages of grief are represented in her lyrics: anger, denial, bargaining and acceptance, but the last song, the upbeat "Another Spring," reveals a stronger woman who lets her "wounds shine through."

Jackson cites many musical influences — including singer-songwriters Damien Rice, Ray LaMontagne

and Conor Oberst. Her eyes light up when she talks about being a “massive fan” of the indie rock band Manchester Orchestra. When she heard that guitarist-singer-songwriter Andy Hull from the band would produce her first record, she was elated. She flew to Atlanta to work with him and says the band was supportive of her sound.

“Everyone was just so welcoming and so kind and they held this project to be, like, very sacred. They understood my emotional connection to it and understood that this is my baby. They didn’t want to do anything that wasn’t authentic to who I am and they just took it to the next level,” Jackson says.

Michael Jackson famously attempted to shield his three young children from the spotlight. After Jackson’s death in 2009 of an overdose of the anesthetic propofol, Paris and her two brothers — who go by Prince, 23, and Bigi, 18 — went to live with their grandmother, Katherine Jackson. Paris moved out at 18 and has been modeling and acting, but always played music.

In June, she and Glenn had a docu-series on Facebook Watch called “Unfiltered,” which provided a glimpse into her private life and the duo’s small acoustic tour. Jackson revealed self-harm and suicide attempts in her testimonials, and said music was a way to channel her pain.

There’s an upcoming music video to go with the new single “Let Down,” a nod to the younger Jackson’s love of horror and gore. In it, the character she plays has her heart literally ripped out of her chest by her lover. One of the recurring scenes is set in dark woods, reminiscent of elements in her father’s famous “Thriller” video. When asked what he might think of her music, Jackson demurs.

“I don’t know. I’m not him, so I can’t speak for him. But I hope he would be happy, and I think he would be stoked because I’m happy,” she said.

The pandemic has sidelined most musical acts and Jackson says she misses hearing her favorite bands live and aspires to play a few shows soon, if anti-COVID-19 measures allow. She said she hopes the music will help people feel “a little less lonely.”

“I found so much healing through creating this. And there are moments where I’ll listen back to certain songs and I’m like, ‘Wow I was so naïve.’ But for the most part, it’s just like so much gratitude and joy that I get from listening to these songs and just seeing the development and the evolution,” she said.

## Falwell sues Liberty, saying school damaged his reputation

By SARAH RANKIN and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Jerry Falwell Jr. has sued Liberty University, alleging the evangelical school founded by his late pastor father damaged his reputation in a series of public statements that followed his resignation as president and chancellor in August amid a series of scandals.

The lawsuit filed in Lynchburg Circuit Court on Wednesday includes claims of defamation and breach of contract. It alleges that Liberty officials accepted what Falwell says are false claims about his involvement in an extramarital affair between his wife and a business partner of the couple’s and “moved quickly” to destroy his reputation.

“When Mr. Falwell and his family became the targets of a malicious smear campaign incited by anti-evangelical forces, Liberty University not only accepted the salacious and baseless accusations against the Falwells at face value, but directly participated in the defamation. This action seeks redress for the damage Liberty has caused to the reputation of Mr. Falwell and his family,” the lawsuit says.

K. Todd Swisher, Circuit Court clerk for the city of Lynchburg, provided The Associated Press with a copy of the complaint, which contains a limited number of redactions in sections pertaining to Falwell’s employment agreement. Swisher said there would be a hearing within a week for a judge to consider whether an unredacted version of the complaint should remain sealed.

Liberty spokesman Scott Lamb said the school, which had not yet been served with the lawsuit, would have a formal statement in response later Thursday. The school’s board of trustees has been meeting this week.

An attorney for Falwell did not respond immediately to a telephone message left Thursday, and Falwell did not respond to a voicemail and text seeking comment.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 53 of 73

Falwell left Liberty in August after Giancarlo Granda, a younger business partner of the Falwell family, said he had a yearslong sexual relationship with Falwell's wife, Becki Falwell, and that Jerry Falwell participated in some of the liaisons as a voyeur.

Although the Falwells have acknowledged that Granda and Becki Falwell had an affair, Jerry Falwell has denied any participation. The couple allege that Granda sought to extort them by threatening to reveal the relationship unless he was paid substantial amounts of money.

Before his resignation, Falwell had already been on an indefinite leave of absence after an uproar over a photo he posted on social media of him and his wife's pregnant assistant, both with their pants unzipped.

Falwell said it was taken in good fun at a costume party during a vacation, but critics saw it as evidence of hypocrisy by the head of an institution that holds students to a strict moral code of conduct.

Shortly after Falwell's departure, Liberty announced it was opening an independent investigation into his tenure as president, a wide-ranging inquiry that would include financial, real estate and legal matters.

Earlier this month, the school identified Baker Tilly US as the firm handling the investigation and announced the launch of a website to "facilitate the reporting of potential misconduct to the investigative team."

Falwell has declined to answer questions from the AP about the size of the exit package he received from the university but has discussed the issue with other news organizations, which reported that he was set to receive \$10.5 million. However, Liberty said in a statement last month that it paid Falwell two years of base salary and disputed "media reports regarding the size and terms" of Falwell's contract.

In an August interview with the AP, Falwell said that the school's board had been "very generous to me" but raised concerns that they were "being influenced by people who really shouldn't have a say" about the future direction of Liberty.

In the lawsuit, Falwell claimed that Liberty "turned on" him after Granda went public with his allegations, forcing his resignation. The lawsuit also says Liberty rejected Falwell's attempts "to reach an amicable resolution," forcing Falwell to turn to court to "restore his reputation."

The lawsuit says Liberty's statements have harmed not only Falwell's reputation but also his future employment prospects and business opportunities. Falwell now has a "drastically reduced ability" to attach his name to business and charity organizations, and he has stopped receiving previously frequent invitations to appear on TV to discuss Liberty, evangelicalism and politics, the lawsuit says.

Reached for comment on the lawsuit, Granda said via email that he stands by his previous statements. "Jerry is attempting to portray himself as a victim," Granda said. "No one should be fooled."

The lawsuit further alleges that "Liberty's actions are antithetical to the teachings of Christ." Falwell's attorneys charge the university with hurting its own standing and that of the broader evangelical community "by playing right into the hands of sinister operatives with ulterior motives."

Falwell's acrimonious departure from Liberty came four years after his endorsement helped burnish the reputation of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump among conservative evangelical Protestants. That group has since become a critical part of the president's political base. The public Falwell-Trump alliance that marked 2016 is not visible in this year's election, as the president looks to other prominent evangelical surrogates.

Named in the lawsuit as amplifying Granda's claims is The Lincoln Project, a group founded by prominent GOP critics of Trump. A Lincoln Project adviser had provided public relations help to Granda after he went public with his allegations about a sexual relationship with Becki Falwell, although the group said Thursday that it "has had nothing to do with the public finally learning about the true character of the Falwell family."

"The Lincoln Project didn't make Mr. Falwell unbutton his pants on a super yacht and post a picture on social media," and it "didn't make Mr. Falwell stand with Donald Trump, though that now makes sense; they are kindred spirits," the group said in a statement.

---

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

---

Schor reported from Washington, D.C.

## Fair housing groups: Redfin 'redlines' minority communities

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Several fair housing organizations accused Redfin of systematic racial discrimination in a lawsuit Thursday, saying the online real estate broker offers fewer services to homebuyers and sellers in minority communities — a type of digital redlining that has depressed home values and exacerbated historic injustice in the housing market.

In a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle, the organizations said that during a two-year investigation they documented the effect of Redfin's "minimum price policy," which requires homes to be listed for certain prices to reap the benefits of Redfin's services.

The company was vastly less likely to offer realtor services, professional photos, virtual tours, online promotion or commission rebates for homes listed in overwhelmingly minority neighborhoods than it was in overwhelmingly white ones, the investigation found.

That meant homes in minority neighborhoods were likely to stay on the market longer and sell for lower prices than they otherwise might have, the lawsuit said.

"Redfin's policies and practices operate as a discriminatory stranglehold on communities of color, often the very communities that have been battered by a century of residential segregation, systemic racism, and disinvestment," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit comes as the nation reckons with generations of systemic racism, including in real estate. Mortgage lenders and brokers long discriminated by drawing lines on maps — known as redlining — and refusing to provide services for homes outside of white areas, preventing minority residents from building wealth through homeownership. Though the practice was outlawed decades ago, it has had severe consequences in perpetuating poverty and restricting access to good schools, health care and other amenities.

Litigation in the 1990s and 2000s helped erase similar minimum value policies in the insurance industry, where companies would provide substandard homeowners policies or no policies based on a home's age and market value.

Redfin, based in Seattle, launched in 2006 and has grown to offer residential real estate brokering, mortgage, title and other services in more than 90 markets in the U.S. and Canada. In a statement Thursday, CEO Glenn Kelman insisted that the company had not violated the federal Fair Housing Act, "which clearly supports a business's decisions to set the customers and areas it serves based on legitimate business reasons such as price."

However, he said, the lawsuit raised important questions that Redfin has struggled with.

"Our long-term commitment is to serve every person seeking a home, in every community, profitably," Kelman said. "The challenge is that we don't know how to sell the lowest-priced homes while paying our agents and other staff a living wage, with health insurance and other benefits. This is why Redfin agents aren't always in low-priced neighborhoods."

Redfin might seem an unlikely target for such a lawsuit: It has previously said it is devoted to eradicating systematic discrimination in the industry and that enabling people of color to find listings online — rather than relying on an agent to show them what homes are available — could help end segregation. Two years ago Kelman hosted a symposium on racial prejudice in real estate.

The company once experimented with awarding realtors commissions based on customer satisfaction rather than sale price, as a way to promote the sale of less expensive homes, but found it difficult to recruit agents who expected to make more money for selling more expensive homes.

But Redfin's minimum price and other policies have had the opposite effect, according to the National Fair Housing Alliance, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination, and nine of its member organizations. With financial support from U.S. Housing and Urban Development, they studied the policy's effect in Baltimore; Chicago; Detroit; Kansas City; Long Island, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee; Newark, New Jersey; and Philadelphia.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 55 of 73

Under the minimum price policy, Redfin doesn't offer its full services unless homes are listed for certain prices, which vary by market. When potential buyers click on homes that fall below those minimums, they receive a message saying, "Redfin is currently unable to show this property."

The lawsuit disputed the notion that Redfin's practice was justified by business concerns, noting the company charges a minimum commission for the sales it handles.

In Chicago last June, the company didn't offer services unless the homes were listed for at least \$400,000, the lawsuit said. In adjacent, predominantly white DuPage County, however, the minimum price was just \$275,000.

In Detroit the same month, the minimum was set at \$700,000. In the surrounding, mostly white areas outside the city limits, it was \$250,000.

Further, it alleged, Redfin sometimes failed to provide services even when a home's price topped the minimum. That was much more common in predominately minority neighborhoods, including Chicago's South Side, the organizations said.

Using Census data to compare ZIP codes that are at least 70% white with those that are at least 70% minority, the organizations compared listings for which Redfin offered its "best available service" with those for which it offered no service on multiple dates over the past two years.

On June 12, for example, there were 218 homes posted on Redfin in non-white neighborhoods in the Kansas City area. Of them, 16 had Redfin's best service and 127 were offered no service.

By contrast, there were 4,550 homes in predominately white neighborhoods of Kansas City. More than half received the best available service and only 14% had no service, the lawsuit said.

Similar disparities were found in other cities, it said. On Long Island last Aug. 20, listings in white ZIP codes were 55 times more likely to receive Redfin's best service.

In minority ZIP codes of Louisville, none of the 108 homes posted on Nov. 21, 2018, or the 31 homes listed on June 11, 2020, received Redfin's best service, the groups found.

The lawsuit asks the court to block any Redfin policies found to violate federal fair housing law and seeks punitive damages.

Brandon Scott, Baltimore's City Council president and mayoral candidate, sent a letter to Redfin on Thursday calling for an end to the policy.

Lisa Rice, president and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance, said the groups did not share their findings with Redfin before filing the lawsuit because past experience with the industry sometimes resulted in long, unsuccessful negotiations that only protracted the issues.

"We have had decades and decades and decades of discriminatory practices in the real estate field," she said. "Real estate agents are some of the most well-trained professionals in the industry. They know what redlining is."

## Surge in virus threatens to reverse global economic rebounds

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The resurgence of coronavirus cases engulfing the United States and Europe is imperiling economic recoveries on both sides of the Atlantic as millions of individuals and businesses face the prospect of having to hunker down once again.

Growing fear of an economic reversal coincided with a report Thursday that the U.S. economy grew at a record 33.1% annual rate in the July-September quarter. Even with that surge, the world's largest economy has yet to fully rebound from its plunge in spring when the virus first erupted. And now the economy is slowing just as new confirmed viral cases accelerate and rescue aid from Washington has dried up.

If many consumers and companies choose — or are forced — to retrench again in response to the virus as they did in the spring, the pullback in spending and hiring could derail economic growth. Already, in the United and Europe, some governments are re-imposing restrictions to help stem the spread of the virus.

In Chicago, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker of Illinois has banned indoor dining and drinking, Grant DePorter, who runs Harry Caray's Restaurant Group, worries that the blow to restaurants and their employees could

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 56 of 73

be severe.

When indoor dining was first shut down in the spring, he noted, employees could get by thanks to a \$600-a-week federal unemployment benefit. That benefit has expired.

"Everyone is incredibly disappointed by the state's decision," DePorter said.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron has declared a nationwide lockdown starting Friday. And in Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a four-week shutdown of bars, restaurants and theaters. Merkel warned of a "difficult winter" as Germany's daily reported coronavirus cases hit a new high Thursday.

In Rheinberg, Germany, Michael Boehm had set up plastic igloos outside his restaurant to welcome guests during the winter. But Germany's new restrictions, Boehm said, will threaten businesses like his by forcing them to provide only take-away meals through November.

"People prefer to sit outside," he said ruefully. "We do everything possible, my colleagues do everything possible, too, to ensure that our guests come home healthy."

A major uncertainty is whether most people will abide by government directives or whether the resistance to lockdowns and other restrictions that have emerged in parts of the United States and Europe will slow progress in controlling the pandemic. President Donald Trump, facing an election in five days, has loudly denounced states and cities that have imposed restrictions on businesses to help control the pandemic. And many of his supporters have registered their agreement.

In Spain, some regions have closed bars and restaurants. But the government hasn't provided subsidies to aid the proprietors, triggering protests in Barcelona this week by business owners who banged pots, waved cocktail shakers and chanted, "We want to work!"

The U.S. government's estimate Thursday of third-quarter growth showed that the economy has regained only about two-thirds of the output that was lost early this year when the eruption of the virus closed businesses, threw tens of millions out of work and caused the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

The economy is now weakening again and facing renewed threats. Confirmed viral cases are surging. Hiring has sagged. Federal stimulus has run out. With no further federal aid in sight this year, Goldman Sachs has slashed its growth forecast for the current fourth quarter to a 3% annual rate from 6%.

Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, noted that the record-high third quarter growth in the nation's gross domestic product "tells us little, if anything, about momentum heading into" the current quarter.

"The strong GDP performance gives a false impression of the economy's true health," Daco wrote in a research note. "We anticipate a much slower second phase of the recovery."

Likewise in Germany, Europe's largest economy, Oxford Economics has raised the possibility that its already pessimistic forecast of 1.2% growth for the fourth quarter will have to be downgraded. Oxford's forecast is based on an index that reflects credit card payments, online restaurant reservations, health statistics and mobility data.

Another setback for the U.S. economy would again most likely imperil front-line service companies — from restaurants and bars to hotels, airlines and entertainment venues. Boeing, for example, said this week that it will cut 7,000 more jobs because the pandemic has smothered demand for new planes.

Perhaps no economic sector is under a darker cloud than the bar and restaurant industry, which is both vulnerable to the spread of the virus and deeply affected by government restrictions.

Dr. Emily Landon, a medical director at the University of Chicago's medical school, said two factors facilitate the virus's spread in winter, especially at restaurants: Colder air is drier, and the droplets that transmit the virus become even smaller.

Add to that, she said, what people do in a bar or restaurant.

"There are only a couple activities where you have to take your masks off around other people, and that is dining in a restaurant and going to a bar," Landon noted. "There is just no way to escape the risks (of COVID-19) when you go into a restaurant."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, warned that the job market might not fully recover until perhaps 2023 because "many of the jobs in retailing, leisure and airlines have been permanently lost, and those folks will have to find different work, and that will take time."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 57 of 73

In contrast to the hospitality sector, some industries are actually faring well, pointing up the unevenness of the pandemic economy. From Amazon and Walmart to delivery services like UPS, Grubhub and DoorDash, some companies have benefited from evolving consumer demands. So have companies involved in streaming or cloud computing services, like Netflix, Microsoft and Comcast.

But for the U.S. economy as a whole, the prospect that the virus could roar back is a growing fear. Add to that the failure of Congress to pass another rescue aid plan now that the package it enacted back in spring has expired. That \$2 trillion package managed to ease the pain of the recession by boosting incomes and spending and supporting small businesses. Without additional aid, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has warned, those dynamics could re-emerge.

The \$600-a-week federal unemployment benefit and \$1,200 stimulus checks that went to most individuals under last spring's federal aid package enabled many of the jobless to rebuild savings, allowing them to keep spending even after the \$600 supplement expired in July. Both are now long gone.

Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services, envisions a slowdown to GDP growth to 4.8% annual rate in the current quarter and a 3.7% rate in the first three months of 2021. But he said he might have to reduce his forecasts if either pandemic worsens or Congress fails to provide more economic stimulus early next year.

If many states felt compelled to impose shutdowns in response to an acceleration of the virus," Faucher said, the economy could even fall back into recession.

"I am concerned," Faucher said, "that the longer it takes to get a stimulus bill, the more structural damage we will see to the economy with more businesses closing."

AP Writers David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany; Daniel Niemann in Rheinberg, Germany; Don Babwin, Kathleen Foody and Sophia Tareen in Chicago; John O'Connor in Springfield, Illinois; and Christopher Rugaber, Darlene Superville and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

## San Francisco's Transamerica Pyramid sold for \$650 million

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Transamerica Pyramid, one of San Francisco's most iconic buildings, has sold for \$650 million, eight months after a sales agreement was reached.

New York investor Michael Shvo, Deutsche Finance America and other investors bought the building from Aegon, owner of namesake insurance company Transamerica Corp., the San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday.

The building, the second tallest in the city, had never been previously sold.

The price was initially over \$700 million but the deal was delayed amid the coronavirus pandemic, which heavily disrupted the real estate market and sent most office workers home.

The new owners, which include Germany's biggest pension fund, Bayerische Versorgungskammer, plan to renovate the building that has been a recognizable part of the San Francisco skyline since it was built in 1972.

The deal also includes two nearby buildings, at 505 Sansome St. and 545 Sansome St., which is a potential development site. The three buildings total around 760,000 square feet (70,606 square meters).

## Pope ends public audiences, eyes Christmas as virus surges

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis is halting his public general audiences and will limit participation at Christmas and other upcoming Masses amid a surge of coronavirus cases in Italy and the Vatican, officials said Thursday.

Starting next week, Francis will resume livestreaming his weekly catechism lessons from his library in the Apostolic Palace, as he did during the Vatican's COVID-19 lockdown during the spring and summer, the Vatican said.

In addition, Francis' liturgical events over the next few weeks and months — including Christmas — will be attended by only limited numbers of faithful, the Vatican said, though it noted plans could change as

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 58 of 73

the health situation evolves.

Ambassadors to the Vatican were informed recently that Christmas would be essentially a virtual affair for the diplomatic corps this year.

The shift indicated that the Vatican is moving back into partial lockdown mode along with the rest of Italy as Europe experiences surging COVID-19 infections that are putting pressure on already overburdened health care systems.

The Vatican City State has not been spared, with 13 Swiss Guards testing positive this month. All told, the Holy See's official caseload stands at 27, according to the Johns Hopkins University running tally.

After Italy largely tamed the virus with a strict lockdown over the spring and summer, Francis resumed his Wednesday general audiences on Sept. 2 in a Vatican courtyard with limited numbers of faithful participating.

They were told to wear facemasks, and had to reserve tickets online and provide contact information. In announcing the return to livestreamed audiences, the Vatican reported Thursday that someone who attended the Oct. 21 audience tested positive.

In recent weeks, as infections began to rise, Francis refrained from greeting well-wishers at the audiences to prevent people from crowding around him. But he still refused to wear a protective facemask when greeting bishops at the end of the encounters, and Vatican protocol officials didn't force the clergymen to keep theirs on when they chatted with the pontiff one-on-one.

Francis' decision to eschew the mask drew criticism on social media and concern from within the Vatican. At age 83 and with part of his lung removed after an illness in his youth, Francis would be at high risk for complications if he were to become infected.

While Francis' lung condition could explain his reluctance to wear a mask, there has been no comment from the Vatican about why protocol officials allowed other people to get close to him without donning face protection.

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

## Report: US knew of problems family separation would cause

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Months before the Trump administration separated thousands of families at the U.S.-Mexico border, a "pilot program" in Texas left child-welfare officials scrambling to find empty beds for babies taken from their parents in a preview of bigger problems to come, according to a report released Thursday by congressional Democrats.

Documents in the report suggest Health and Human Services officials weren't told by the Department of Homeland Security why shelters were receiving more children taken from their parents in late 2017. It has since been revealed that DHS was operating a pilot program in El Paso, Texas, that prosecuted parents for crossing the border illegally and took their children away to HHS shelters.

"We had a shortage last night of beds for babies," Jonathan White, a top HHS official, wrote in a Nov. 11, 2017, email. He added: "Overall, infant placements seem to be climbing over recent weeks, and we think that's due to more separations from mothers by CBP."

The problems revealed by the pilot program presaged what would happen months later: government employees caring for babies and young children in so-called tender age shelters and many parents being deported without their kids. The consequences linger today: Lawyers working to reunite immigrant families have said they can't reach the deported parents of 545 children who were separated as early as July 2017.

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee released the report Thursday with emails obtained from government agencies. It comes shortly before Election Day as Democrats campaign against the Trump administration's family separations, which stirred widespread outcry as part of its "zero tolerance" crack-down on illegal border crossings.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 59 of 73

Democrat Joe Biden announced Thursday that he would form a task force if elected to reunite still-separated families.

The report outlines discussions since the start of the Trump administration of family separation as a law enforcement tactic. In March 2017, then-Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told CNN that the government was considering taking children from their families and placing them in government-licensed shelters while the parents were prosecuted.

That July, Customs and Border Protection agents began separating families in what was later called a pilot program, according to a review by the Health and Human Services inspector general.

The pilot ran through November 2017. According to the inspector general, at least 118 children were taken from their parents. Documents in the new report suggest CBP did not communicate with HHS about why shelters were receiving more separated children.

White, the HHS official, wrote a Nov. 17, 2017, email to Kevin McAleenan, who was then commissioner of CBP and later became acting Homeland Security secretary. The email notes "the increase in referrals" of children unaccompanied by a parent "resulting from separation of children from parents." White sent McAleenan a chart of all the children HHS had received.

In a Dec. 3, 2017, response, McAleenan wrote in part: "You should have seen a change the past 10 days or so. We will be coordinating in advance on any future plans."

Another HHS official, Tricia Swartz, had written to White on Sept. 28, 2017, warning that "these types of cases often end up with parent repatriated and kid in our care for months pending home studies, international legal issues, etc."

The pilot program is believed to have been limited to the region around El Paso, Texas, including parts of New Mexico. Months later, the Trump administration began separating families border-wide. The report documents how different Border Patrol sectors had their own policies for which families to separate: the Big Bend sector in rural Texas initially exempted children 5 and younger, while the El Centro sector in California did not.

In June 2018, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw ordered the government to reunite all migrant families. More than two years later, the process is still underway, with lawyers and nonprofits trying to find parents in Central America and elsewhere after their children were placed with sponsors in the U.S., usually relatives.

McAleenan did not respond to a request for comment. The Homeland Security and Health and Human Services departments did not respond to requests for comment.

## San Francisco curbs virus but once-vibrant downtown is empty

By JANIE HAR and JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Before the pandemic, Señor Sisig food trucks were a common sight in downtown San Francisco, dishing out Filipino fusion tacos and burritos to long lines of workers who spilled out of office towers at lunch.

The trucks now are gone, forced into the suburbs because there's practically no one around to feed in the city's center.

As the coronavirus pandemic transforms San Francisco's workplace, legions of tech workers have left, able to work remotely from anywhere. Families have fled for roomy suburban homes with backyards. The exodus has pushed rents in the prohibitively expensive city to their lowest in years. Tourists are scarce, and the famed cable cars sit idle.

The food trucks, like many other businesses, are wondering when things will bounce back.

"Is it ever going to get back to normal, is it ever going to be as busy as it was — and will that be next year, or in 10 years?" said Evan Kidera, CEO of Señor Sisig.

On Tuesday, more of San Francisco reopened for business after Mayor London Breed proudly declared last week that the city's low virus case numbers allowed it to move into California's most permissive reopening tier. That means more people can go back to the office, eat indoors at restaurants, visit museums and soon even enjoy a beer or cocktail — outdoors — at a bona fide drinks-only bar.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 60 of 73

It is the only urban county in the state to hit this tier, joining a handful of sparsely populated rural ones. In March, counties in the Bay Area jointly ordered their residents to stay at home, becoming the first region in the country to do so. And San Francisco itself was even slower than its neighbors to reopen restaurants, gyms and salons.

The result: San Francisco, which pre-pandemic had nearly 900,000 residents, has recorded just over 12,200 virus cases and 145 deaths, among the lowest death rates in the country. By contrast, the Southern California city of Long Beach is about half the size but has had about 900 more cases and 100 more deaths.

But the restrictions also played a role in shutting down critical elements of San Francisco's vibrant economy — tourism, tech and the city's main business and financial districts, packed with high-rise condos, office towers and headquarters for the likes of Twitter, Pinterest and Slack.

There are no hard figures on how many residents have left. It remains to be seen if the limited reopening will do much to repopulate the city.

"San Francisco can say, 'Hey, it's cool to open back up.' But what's changed?" tech executive Connor Fee said. "The virus is still there, and there's no vaccine."

Last week Fee, 38, and his partner moved out of their \$4,000-a-month one-bedroom apartment. "We're both extreme extroverts, so the working from home thing makes us miserable," he said.

Figuring they could work their jobs remotely from anywhere, they bought a car, packed up the essentials — 24-inch monitors, chef's knives, bikes and some clothes — and drove south to an Airbnb in San Diego. The plan is a string of trips and temporary stays across the country.

"When we left, we didn't say goodbyes. We're not planning to move forever," Fee said. But their calendar is booked for several months at least.

Others left permanently for nearby suburbs, in search of more living space for less money.

"The spark of living in the city just kind of burned out a bit with everything being closed," said Deme Peterson, 30, who moved across the bay to her hometown of Walnut Creek with her husband a few weeks ago. "We kind of didn't see when it would come back to normal."

The restaurant industry projects half the eateries in a city consumed with innovative dining may not survive the pandemic. Some already have closed. There will be no more eggs benedict, for example, served with a view at Louis' Restaurant, which has had a prime perch on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean since 1937.

Companies in the nation's tech capital, where Google, Facebook and Salesforce, the city's largest employer, have extensive office space, were quick to embrace remote working and when the lockdown came, an estimated 137,500 tech workers seemingly vanished overnight.

San Francisco's office vacancy rate has since nearly tripled compared with December to 14.1%, the highest since 2011, said Robert Sammons, a senior researcher with commercial real estate group Cushman & Wakefield who is eager to return to his own downtown office.

For Rent and For Sale signs began popping up this summer with increasing frequency — and offering steeply reduced prices. Residential rents that were among the highest in the country have plummeted, with the median price for a one-bedroom apartment dropping 20% to \$2,800, according to rental listing platform Zumper. Moving trucks are a common sight on weekends.

Another telling indicator that people weren't around? While other California cities showed big increases in online sales tax collections as more people ordered from home during the pandemic, that was virtually flat in San Francisco, according to a city report issued earlier this month.

"I don't know if it's an exodus, but a lot of people are leaving," said city historian and author Gary Kamiya, who says the streets of his North Beach-Telegraph Hill neighborhood are full of furniture free for the taking.

Based on the quality and taste of the tables, chairs and works of art he's seen, including the pair of end tables he grabbed for his daughter, Kamiya figures they were put out by young, "pretty highly paid people."

Some of the change has been positive. Many of San Francisco's eclectic neighborhoods are bouncing back, buoyed by pedestrian streets newly closed to vehicles and now filled with outdoor dining and kids on bikes.

But there have been many downsides, including rising break-ins and other types of crime, a worsening

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 61 of 73

homelessness crisis and a spike in open drug use.

In the central Hayes Valley neighborhood, the streets have become so filthy that Kim Alter decided against seating people outdoors at her restaurant, Nightbird.

"I would love to do outdoor seating, but I'd have to worry about needles and feces," said Alter, the restaurant's chef and owner, who now regularly power-washes sidewalks outside to remove the stench.

Within a four-block radius, more than two dozen establishments have closed as business dries up and customers disappear, she said: "A lot of our regulars have already moved; they come to us and have their final meal — as takeout."

For hair stylist Caitlin Boehm, 36, who grew up in San Francisco, the extended closure was the final straw. She's moving next month to Austin, Texas, seeking a mix of warm weather, an artistic vibe similar to what San Francisco has long been known for and affordability undreamed of in her hometown.

At her new one-bedroom she'll have a pool, gym, in-unit laundry and dishwasher, all for about \$1,600 a month, none of which she had in her \$2,700 rental back home.

"I may even be able to buy a house or open my own salon," Boehm said. "I never allowed myself to even think that big when I was in San Francisco."

With so many people working remotely, the central financial and retail districts have a long way to go to recapture their pre-pandemic bustle. Nearly 100,000 people riding packed commuter trains used to get off at downtown's two busiest stops each weekday, most them from the suburbs. Now, Bay Area Rapid Transit ridership is down nearly 90%.

For Debi Gould, 67, who lives in the Rincon Hill neighborhood near the Bay Bridge, the moving trucks, vacant units and departing neighbors have become common.

But the retiree relishes having ample street parking where once there was none and walking her dog along formerly traffic-clogged streets turned calm. She does not miss the throngs of people crowding sidewalks, walking while staring at their smartphones.

"I don't have to part the Red Sea through pedestrians walking toward me, who would see me and not move," she said.

That may change somewhat with nonessential offices now allowed to bring a quarter of their workers back. Or at least that's the hope of Leslie Silverglide, CEO and co-founder of Mixt, a popular chain of salad eateries.

She has managed to keep a few outlets open and acquired some new regulars — construction workers — but the shutdown has been hard, and at first she even found walking alone downtown to be scary at times.

"History will tell us, right?" Silverglide said of the city's pandemic response. "I've felt like in some ways San Francisco has been more extreme than anywhere else in the country. But then you look at what's happening across the country ... case counts going up in so many states and things just spiraling out of control."

Breed, other city officials and business leaders are adamant that the sacrifices are worth it, and public health director Dr. Grant Colfax said that attitude has been critical to its success, along with top-notch medical facilities, robust testing and memories of the devastation wrought in San Francisco by the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s.

"In those days of HIV, there were all sort of issues and unknowns but in general the community came together," Colfax said. "I think we're seeing a similar response here."

Until the pandemic hit, the city's housing market was so tight that would-be renters lined up for viewings and arrived with thousands of dollars in cash, ready to sign a lease on the spot.

But now landlords are hard-up for tenants and some are offering several months free, said Coldwell Banker realtor Nick Chen, who recently rented out a one-bedroom for \$3,150 that before would have easily gone for \$4,300.

"San Francisco rents have been really inflated over the past couple years," Chen said. "It will come back, but I think the question is: Will it come back to the level it was at previously? Maybe not."

---

Associated Press writer Juliet Williams contributed to this report.

## Letters, texts, caravans, parades: Advocates mobilize voters

By JOCELYN NOVECK and CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

Sometimes her hand hurt, but Nancy Gehman kept writing. Every evening from July until mid-October, the 85-year-old retiree sat with a gel pen, writing notes imploring fellow Americans to find a way to vote. Then she mailed them: All 1,260 letters.

"It was comforting to know that I was doing something productive," she says.

Gehman, who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is one of 182,000 people who have participated in Vote Forward, a 50-state letter-writing campaign to more than 17.5 million homes. The grassroots effort is one of countless ways in which individuals and organizations are working to get people to the polls in an election where, it's safe to say, nothing is normal.

In the best of times, it's a massive logistical challenge to get millions out to vote. In 2020, the difficulty has been compounded: by fear of the coronavirus, by complications and confusion over mail-in ballots, by palpable anxiety over the bitter divisions in the country.

As early voting has surged dramatically, with more than 73 million people estimated to have cast ballots, advocates have been mobilizing in myriad ways, from neighborhood groups to national movements, from block associations to college marching bands to lone violinists. Voters have been ushered to the polls by fleets of minivans, with bicycle parades and on horseback in Indian Country. When they get there, they're sometimes welcomed by a cello performance or a dance party.

Often unable to knock on doors or chat in person because of virus concerns, advocates have had to adapt. They've been texting and phone banking, holding drive-in rallies and organizing caravans.

What unites these efforts is the certainty that this is an election year like no other, and that voting is essential.

In Native American tribal communities devastated by the coronavirus, from job losses to sickness and death, advocates are mindful of causing further stress.

"As much as we know voting is important and necessary ... people are struggling," says advocate Ahtza Dawn Chavez. "In some ways, a lot of it can come off as just being insensitive."

In a normal election cycle, Chavez, who lives in Albuquerque and is Navajo and Kewa, and colleagues would knock on doors and sit down for coffee. Now, they're relying on ambassadors within communities to talk with their neighbors. They're also using robocalls, phone banking and mass texting. Of special concern are older adults.

"Our elderly are basically our library, they are our encyclopedia, our historical and cultural knowledge holders," Chavez said. "Making sure people have a safe way to cast their votes and access their polling locations was something we were very concerned about." In Arizona's Indian Country, "Ride to the Polls" has targeted younger voters with organized groups on horseback.

It's not only the coronavirus that's been an obstacle. In North Carolina, civil rights leader the Rev. William Barber II and others have been training clergy members to mobilize their congregations and make sure they know their options and rights, and to push back against any misinformation that might prevent them from voting.

"Don't let anybody suppress, stop, stymie, deter, detract your right to vote," Barber recently told attendees of a get-out-the-vote event.

In 2016, Patrisse Cullors, one of the creators of Black Lives Matter, hadn't thought about how she could leverage the platform to get out the vote. Now, after an unprecedented surge of Black Lives Matter-themed protests in recent months, Cullors and the foundation are hosting pandemic-safe drive-in rallies, text-banking voters and leveraging the millions of dollars in donations to run ads focused on the Black vote, Cullors said.

In Louisville, Kentucky, a city that has been rocked by demonstrations over the killing by police of Breonna Taylor, community groups, voters and activists have joined together in a parade of cars, trucks and buses through the city's predominantly Black West End in an effort to get out the vote. The effort, called "Protest to the Polls," is led by the Louisville Urban League and aims to take the summer's demands for

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 63 of 73

racial and social justice to the ballot box, said Sadiqa Reynolds, president and CEO.

"We are reclaiming our votes," she said.

Some get-out-the-vote efforts have involved large-scale planning; others have been the work of one or two people with a sudden idea.

On the larger side is the nonprofit Neighborhood Assistance Corporations of America, which has deployed a fleet of vans in southwest Texas and Atlanta, and recently expanded to Charlotte, North Carolina. The vans have carted 25,000 people to the polls, said media coordinator Tim Trumble.

The community justice organization hopes it sends a message: Voter suppression efforts in minority communities will backfire. The 15-passenger vans, which accommodate six people with social distancing, get going as the sun comes up and drive all day, and are sanitized between each trip.

On the smaller side: "Play for the Vote," a nonpartisan effort by Boston cellist Mike Block that has organized musicians to play for voters while they wait to cast their ballots. Block came up with the idea while practicing his instrument the morning after the chaotic first presidential debate.

"I thought, 'The music is helping me — maybe I should just go down to my polling location and play.' It became obvious how great it would be if every musician did that," he said.

So Block, 38, has since enlisted several hundred musicians from 39 states and the District of Columbia who will perform classical, folk, bluegrass, country, hip hop or rock — but nothing with a political bent — for voters stuck standing in long lines. Participants range from musicians with New York's Metropolitan Opera orchestra to a high school orchestra in Wyoming.

Also on the musical front, "Joy to the Polls" seeks to make a memorable experience of waiting in line to vote. A recent video on social media showed voters in Philadelphia dancing joyfully as they waited, alongside members of the Resistance Revival Chorus.

In Cincinnati, Diane Cunningham Redden, an official with the Hamilton County Republican Party, has been holding small, socially distanced patio gatherings, on the theory that "if 28 people each go home and talk to five friends, those are votes."

Redden heads a group called SHELeads, which identifies and supports female candidates. She has also helped organize bring-your-own-sign events supporting President Donald Trump and others at busy intersections.

Some voters are wary of catching the virus by voting in person, but they're also concerned about the mail-in option. In Columbus, Ohio, 80-year-old Carol Tonkins requested an absentee ballot this year for the first time, but didn't totally trust the mail.

So she called Katie Beaumont, who directs a program, At Home on High, that helps older adults like Tonkins stay home by providing transportation, yardwork, shopping and other services. Beaumont dropped Tonkins' ballot off last Wednesday. "We don't care the way you vote. We just want you to vote," Beaumont said.

In some cases, new strategies have yielded unexpected benefits.

In Sacramento, California, advocate Nichole Rice can't knock on doors because of the coronavirus, and she can't make phone calls because of her two small, sometimes loud, children.

Instead, she's texting hundreds of people every day from an app on her phone. She says that when she can convince them she's not a robot -- which takes some doing in 2020 -- she can have extended conversations with many more voters than she ever would have knocking on doors.

It's led to some vulnerable moments. Rice said one voter said her priorities had changed because her husband had just undergone bypass surgery. Another person revealed her husband was cheating on her.

"People are way more willing to disclose things ... than they ever did in person," she said.

In Mississippi, which has some of the country's most restrictive voting regulations — rules that historically have kept African Americans from voting — retired educator Fran Bridges has been volunteering with several neighborhood associations in Jackson to conduct street-by-street registration.

The idea was that people might be more inclined to register if contacted by their neighbors. She enlisted one person to be the point person for each street. They covered at least 100 streets that way.

Like Gehman in New Mexico, Radha Pyati in Philadelphia has devoted untold hours to writing letters as

part of Vote Forward.

"I don't want to wake up on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 4, and feel I didn't try as hard as I possibly could," she said.

There's at least some evidence that her efforts and those of fellow letter writers have had an impact. One recipient, Carlos Flores in Miami, said he'd already been planning to vote, but the passionate letter he received from Portland, Oregon, on Tuesday got him fired up.

A bakery owner, Flores, 34, voted this week in his first presidential race since gaining citizenship in 2018. "Lots of people in the world can't vote," Flores said. "This is a privilege. Every vote counts."

Noveck reported from New York and Galofaro from Louisville, Kentucky. Also contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Adam Beam in Sacramento, Calif.; Piper Hudspeth Blackburn in Louisville, Ky.; Felicia Fonseca in Albuquerque, N.M.; William J. Kole in Boston; Aaron Morrison in New York; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; and Leah Willingham in Jackson, Miss.

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 corrects spelling of Radha in paragraph beginning 'Like Gehman...'

## 'So frustrating': Grave missteps seen in US virus response

By MATT SEDENSKY and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A president who downplayed the coronavirus threat, scorned masks and undercut scientists at every turn. Governors who resisted or rolled back containment measures amid public backlash. State lawmakers who used federal COVID-19 aid to plug budget holes instead of beefing up testing and contact tracing.

As a powerful new wave of infections sweeps the U.S. just ahead of Election Day, the nation's handling of the nearly 8-month-old crisis has been marked by what health experts see as grave missteps, wasted time and squandered opportunities by leaders at all levels of government.

The result: The country could be looking at a terrible winter.

"The inconsistency of the response is what's been so frustrating," said Dr. Irwin Redlener of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. "If we had just been disciplined about employing all these public health methods early and aggressively, we would not be in the situation we are in now."

Though Redlener sees some of the new wave as inevitable, he estimates at least 130,000 of the nation's more than 227,000 deaths could have been avoided had the country more widely embraced masks and social distancing.

Even if a Chinese-style lockdown wasn't possible, Redlener said, a more modest approach like Canada's, with a strong central message of caution in reopening and widespread mask-wearing and distancing, would have saved lives over the state-by-state and widely partisan approach.

Now the U.S. is seeing cases spike, especially in the Midwest and the Plains, with the country posting a record high number of new infections last week of nearly a half-million.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, likewise pointed to states' varied responses to reopening for the rocketing case numbers.

"It was like a free-for-all," Fauci said in an online forum Wednesday.

The handling of the crisis has emerged as a central issue in the race between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. Trump has mocked Biden's mask-wearing and repeatedly assured the country that it is "rounding the corner" on the outbreak. Biden has hammered the president for downplaying the virus and undermining scientists.

Governors in many of the hard-hit states have been under fierce political pressure that has made it difficult to enact the kind of measures public health officials say are necessary to stop the spread of the virus and keep hospitals from being overwhelmed.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 65 of 73

In the early days of the outbreak, governors were nearly universal in enacting aggressive restrictions to try to flatten the curve. But they quickly faced backlash from residents who were irate over the economic devastation and what they saw as an infringement on their constitutional freedoms.

At the same time, many states were snapping up millions of doses of hydroxychloroquine, the anti-malaria drug that Trump touted as a remedy but was later dropped by the Food and Drug Administration as a COVID-19 treatment. Utah alone spent \$800,000 to build up its stockpile of the drug.

States also started receiving a flood of federal dollars from the CARES Act, in part to help local governments deal with COVID-19. But many states have been criticized for spending the money on efforts completely unrelated to public health, like the \$16 million North Dakota is doling out to support fracking at a time the state has become one of the worst hot spots for the virus. Iowa has spent millions on information technology projects in state agencies.

In Utah, state epidemiologist Angela Dunn called for restrictions to be reinstated in June to avoid overwhelming hospitals, warning: "This might be our last chance for course correction." Republican Gov. Gary Herbert did not heed the advice and refused to impose a statewide mask requirement.

Utah's hospitals are now treating more COVID-19 patients than ever before even as the state remains open for business, most high school students are attending class in person, and football and other sports have gone on.

"This response to this third wave has been very half-hearted," said Dr. Andrew Pavia, chief of pediatric infectious disease at University of Utah Health in Salt Lake City. "Everyone in health care from the ED tech to the ICU doc is just really going: 'C'mon, people, help us out here.' The frustration, the fatigue, the disappointment is really palpable."

In neighboring Idaho, Republican Gov. Brad Little has also resisted a mask mandate even as hospitals are in a crisis and having to airlift patients to Seattle and other locations.

As Little added small restrictions this week such as limits on crowd sizes, his lieutenant governor and a few GOP lawmakers released a video denouncing such measures as unconstitutional.

"This pandemic has been more politicized than any pandemic I've ever experienced or worked on or studied, and that's a lot of pandemics," said Dr. Howard Markel, a public health historian at the University of Michigan.

While some of the blame goes to local leaders and their supporters, Markel said a large share belongs to Trump and other administration officials who have not supported governors taking tougher steps, have undercut and insulted infectious-disease experts, and have themselves refused to wear masks.

"That sets an example, whether you recognize it or not," he said.

Redlener, too, questioned how it was that Trump "didn't understand how many people followed his advice" and said the president has "blood on his hands."

Cooler weather driving more people indoors where the virus is more easily spread are now combining with fatigue and anger over virus restrictions for a dangerous new stage.

"When you put those three together, we shouldn't be surprised what we're seeing," said Michael Osterholm, a University of Minnesota expert on infectious diseases and pandemic preparations.

Some of the same factors are playing out in Europe, which is also seeing a surge.

"We lost control of the epidemic," Dr. Eric Caumes, head of infectious and tropical diseases at Paris' Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital, told broadcaster Franceinfo. Though infections rose in France over the summer, the government didn't impose additional restrictions, encouraging people to return to work and school.

Italy, the one-time European epicenter of the pandemic, has seen days of protests over new restrictions that have forced bars and restaurants to close at 6 p.m., shuttered theaters, gyms and pools, and required high school students to transition to 75% distance learning.

Italy is averaging over 20,000 cases a day, and hospital COVID-19 wards are filling up.

At Rome's Gemelli hospital, few beds remain in the intensive care unit, while one of the country's leading virologists, Andrea Crisanti, has blistered the government's response to the surge. He said he submitted a proposal Aug. 20 calling for ramped-up testing and never got a response.

"Three months later they're passing new decrees," he wrote in an essay published by the Lettera 150

online think tank. "They continue in the error of not asking themselves how, once the contagion levels are reduced via progressively more restrictive measures, they're going to keep them low."

In Britain, the government has tried to strike a balance between saving lives and protecting the economy—and has been widely accused of getting it wrong on both fronts. Britain has Europe's highest coronavirus death toll, at more than 45,000, and one of its deepest economic slumps.

After locking down the country in March, Prime Minister Boris Johnson eased restrictions in June. By August, the government encouraged people back into restaurants with an "Eat Out to Help Out" discount scheme.

When a new surge came, the government clamped down again.

Sedensky reported from Philadelphia. Contributing to this report were Sophia Eppolito and Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City; Nicole Winfield in Rome; Jill Lawless in London; and Raf Casert in Brussels, Belgium.

## Supreme Court issues flurry of last-minute election orders

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Carolina, yes. Pennsylvania, yes. Wisconsin, no. That's how the Supreme Court has answered questions in recent days about an extended timeline for receiving and counting ballots in those states.

In each case, Democrats backed the extensions and Republicans opposed them. All three states have Democratic governors and legislatures controlled by the GOP.

At first blush, the difference in the outcomes at the Supreme Court seems odd because the high court typically takes up issues to harmonize the rules across the country. But elections are largely governed by states, and the rules differ from one state to the next.

A big asterisk: These cases are being dealt with on an emergency basis in which the court issues orders that either block or keep in place a lower-court ruling. But there is almost never an explanation of the majority's rationale, though individual justices sometimes write opinions that partially explain the matter.

There also is a difference in how the justices act based on whether they are ruling on a lawsuit that began in state or federal court.

Conservative justices who hold a majority on the Supreme Court object to what they see as intrusions by federal judges who order last-minute changes to state election rules, even in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. The power to alter absentee ballot deadlines and other voting issues rests with state legislatures, not federal courts, according to the conservative justices.

The court also is divided, but so far has been willing to allow state courts interpreting their own state constitutions to play more of a role than their federal counterparts.

Last week, four conservative justices would have put on hold a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling allowing three additional days to receive and count mailed ballots. Three justices in Wednesday's order about North Carolina's absentee ballots would have blocked a six-day extension.

The justices did not finally resolve the legal issues involved, but they could do so after the election. A more thorough examination could come either in a post-election challenge that could determine the presidential winner if, for example, Pennsylvania proves critical to the national outcome, or in a less tense setting that might not affect the 2020 vote, but would apply in the future.

Even a decision that only looked ahead to future elections would be "concerning given that state courts have often been more protective of the right to vote under state constitutions than the federal courts have under the U.S. Constitution," University of Kentucky law professor Joshua Douglas said.

One more asterisk: new Justice Amy Coney Barrett has not taken part in any of these last-minute orders, but could participate going forward.

Here are some state-specific explanations of what has taken place over the past 10 days:

### PENNSYLVANIA

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 67 of 73

Last week, before Barrett had been confirmed, the justices divided 4-4, a tie vote that allowed the three-day extension ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to remain in effect.

On Wednesday, the court said it would not grant a quick, pre-election review to a new Republican appeal to exclude absentee ballots received after Election Day in the battleground state.

But it remained unclear whether those ballots will ultimately be counted.

The court's order left open the possibility that the justices could take up and decide after the election whether a three-day extension to receive and count absentee ballots ordered by Pennsylvania's high court was proper.

The issue would take on enormous importance if Pennsylvania turns out to be the crucial state in next week's election and the votes received between Nov. 3 and Nov. 6 are potentially decisive.

The Supreme Court ruled hours after Pennsylvania's Department of State agreed to segregate ballots received in the mail after polls close on Tuesday and before 5 p.m. on Nov. 6. Without keeping those ballots separate, Pennsylvania might have risked having the state's overall vote count called into question.

Three conservative justices signaled their interest in the court's eventual review of the case.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The court on Wednesday refused to block an extra six days to receive and count absentee ballots in North Carolina.

The State Board of Elections lengthened the period from three to nine days because of the coronavirus pandemic, pushing back the deadline to Nov. 12. The board's decision was part of a legal settlement with a union-affiliated group. The extension was approved by a state judge.

Lawmakers had previously set Nov. 6 as the deadline for mailed ballots because of the pandemic.

There's no order or recommendation in North Carolina that ballots received after Nov. 6 be kept apart.

Justice Neil Gorsuch said courts should not be second-guessing the legislature. The election board and the state judge "worked together to override a carefully tailored legislative response to COVID," Gorsuch wrote.

## WISCONSIN

In Wisconsin, ballots must arrive by Election Day, Nov. 3, to be counted.

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to reinstate a lower-court order that would have added six days to the deadline, identical to the extension granted primary voters in April. A federal appeals court already had blocked the additional days.

This time, it was the court's liberals who objected. "As the COVID pandemic rages, the Court has failed to adequately protect the Nation's voters," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in dissent.

Again, there was nothing from the court explaining its order, but Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Gorsuch all wrote separate opinions.

"Different bodies of law and different precedents govern these two situations and require, in these particular circumstances, that we allow the modification of election rules in Pennsylvania but not Wisconsin," Roberts wrote, before the court had acted in the North Carolina case.

Kavanaugh's opinion drew outsized attention because he invoked the court's *Bush v. Gore* case that effectively resolved the 2000 presidential election in favor of Republican George W. Bush.

The Supreme Court has never cited *Bush v. Gore* in an opinion of the court. In 2000, in its unsigned majority opinion the court wrote, "Our consideration is limited to the present circumstances."

But three lawyers who worked for Bush's cause in 2000, Roberts, Kavanaugh and now Barrett, sit on the court.

## Jobless claims fall to 751,000, but new infections a threat

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week to 751,000, the lowest since March, but it's still historically high and indicates the viral pandemic is forcing

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 68 of 73

many employers to cut jobs.

Applications for unemployment aid fell 40,000 from the previous week, the Labor Department said Thursday. They fell in 30 states, including big drops in California, Florida and Texas. Claims rose significantly in Arizona, Illinois, and Michigan.

Rising confirmed virus cases in nearly every state, along with a cutoff in federal aid, are threatening to weaken the economy in the coming months. As temperatures fall, restaurants and bars will likely serve fewer customers outdoors. And many consumers may increasingly stay home to avoid infection. Those trends could force employers to slash more jobs during the winter.

The seven-day rolling average for confirmed new cases in the U.S. soared over the past two weeks from 51,161 to 71,832, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

The government said Thursday that the economy expanded at a record 33% annual rate in the July-September quarter. That's a sharp rebound after an epic collapse in the spring, when the economy shrank at a 31.4% annual rate. Yet the increase recovers only about two-thirds of what was lost to the pandemic. And growth is believed to be slowing sharply in the final three months of the year to a roughly 3% annual rate.

With Congress having failed to agree on any further stimulus this year, millions of unemployed Americans who will lose all their jobless benefits in the coming weeks and months will likely pull back further on spending. Without another round of loans from the government, many small companies will also go out of business.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department said the number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits fell more than 700,000 to 7.76 million. The decline shows that some of the unemployed are being recalled to their old jobs or are finding new ones. But it also indicates that many jobless Americans have used up their state unemployment aid — which typically expires after six months — and have transitioned to a federal extended benefits program that lasts an additional 13 weeks.

The still-elevated number of jobless claims underscores that a full recovery from the pandemic recession remains far off. Job growth has slowed for three straight months, leaving the economy still 10.7 million jobs short of its pre-pandemic level. The unemployment rate remains high at 7.9%.

Layoffs have continued at some large companies. Boeing said Wednesday that it will now cut 30,000 jobs by the end of next year, almost one-fifth of its entire workforce, up from an earlier announcement that it would shed 19,000.

Home and auto sales have emerged as bright spots in the economy and have helped strengthen U.S. manufacturing. But the pandemic recession, unlike previous downturns, has done much more harm to in-person services and cost the jobs of millions of workers at restaurants, bars, gyms, and theaters.

Those businesses have suffered from government shutdown orders, some of which might now be revived as the virus resurges. Even without shutdowns, the reluctance of many people to travel, shop or dine out for fear of contracting the virus has compounded the difficulties for face-to-face service industries.

In a sign of caution, Americans boosted their savings over the summer, banking a big chunk of the \$1,200 checks that had gone to most individuals and a now-expired \$600-a-week federal jobless benefit. Both were contained in a \$2 trillion stimulus package that Congress approved in the spring.

Some research suggests that by September, unemployed Americans had spent about two-thirds of what they had saved. If so, the jobless will likely cut their spending in the coming months and weaken growth.

Americans are already showing concern about the economy. Consumer confidence slipped in October after having risen sharply in September. The outlook for the economy over the next six months fell particularly hard, according to the Conference Board, a business research group.

With roughly 20 million Americans unemployed, the pandemic recession is still causing hardship for many families. One-quarter of all adults say their family's financial condition worsened in September compared with February, before the pandemic, according to a survey by the Urban Institute. One in seven say that they or a spouse or partner has lost a job during the downturn.

## US vetted stars' politics to showcase Trump virus response

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public relations firms hired by the Department of Health and Human Services vetted political views of hundreds of celebrities for a planned \$250 million ad blitz aimed at portraying President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus outbreak in a positive light, according to documents released Thursday by a House committee.

A political appointee at the department suggested creating a government-funded campaign to rival the World War II icon Rosie the Riveter, according to the documents, and taglines like "Helping the President will Help the Country."

None of the celebrities agreed to participate — they may not have known they were being vetted — and the campaign has been put on hold.

Director Judd Apatow believes Trump "does not have the intellectual capacity to run as president," according to a list of more than 200 celebrities compiled by one of the firms. Singer Christina Aguilera "is an Obama-supporting Democrat and a gay-rights supporting liberal," the list says, and actor Jack Black is "known to be a classic Hollywood liberal." A public service announcement by comedian George Lopez was "not moving forward due to previous concerns regarding his comments regarding the president," according to the documents.

The names were among the spreadsheets, memos, notes and other documents from September and October released by the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

The firms' vetting came as political appointees planned to spend more than \$250 million on a confidence-building campaign surrounding the virus, which has killed more than 227,000 people in the United States and is a core issue in the presidential race between Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

While government public health campaigns are routine, the ad blitz planned by HHS was mired from the start by involvement from department spokesman Michael Caputo, a fierce loyalist and friend of Trump with little experience in the field. In September, a spokesman for Caputo said he was taking a medical leave from HHS as he battled cancer.

Trump, a Republican, has repeatedly minimized the dangers of the coronavirus, even as the nation is in its third wave of infections, with tens of thousands of cases reported each day.

According to one memo compiled by a subcontractor to Atlas Research, one of the firms hired by HHS, Caputo suggested a series of soundbites and taglines for the campaign, including "Helping the President will Help the Country." The notes say that Caputo wanted the campaign to be "remarkable" and to rival Rosie the Riveter, the character who symbolized women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II against Germany.

"For us, the 'enemy' is the virus," Caputo said, according to the memo.

The documents also show pushback from some of the federal employees leading the work, who removed Caputo from an email chain and thanked one of the contractors for dealing with a "challenging" environment.

The Democrat-led Oversight panel said Caputo was overstepping his bounds, interfering in work that is supposed to be done by contract officers at the department and politicizing what is supposed to be nonpartisan.

"Of course, it is completely inappropriate to frame a taxpayer-funded ad campaign around 'helping' President Trump in the weeks and days before the election," said House Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and Reps. James Clyburn of South Carolina and Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois, both subcommittee chairmen, in a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "This theme also ignores the reality that more than 220,000 Americans have died from coronavirus — a fact that should not be whitewashed in a legitimate public health message."

Azar put the entire project on hold earlier this month, telling the Oversight subcommittee led by Clyburn that it was being investigated internally.

"I have ordered a strategic review of this public health education campaign that will be led by our top public health and communications experts to determine whether the campaign serves important public

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 70 of 73

health purposes," Azar told the subcommittee, which is investigating the federal government's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Because public health policy around the coronavirus pandemic has become so politically polarized, it's unclear how well a confidence-building campaign from the government would play.

HHS officials acknowledge a major challenge to any campaign would involve finding trusted intermediaries to make the pitch to average Americans. On health care matters, people usually trust doctors first, not necessarily celebrities. And Trump has alienated much of the medical establishment with his dismissive comments about basic public health measures, such as wearing masks.

The 34-page "PSA Celebrity Tracker" compiled by Atlas Research and released by the committee does not say whether the celebrities were aware they were even being considered or if they had agreed to participate. The report says that no celebrities are now affiliated with the project but a handful did initially agree to participate.

Singer Marc Antony, who has been critical of Trump, pulled out after seeking an amendment to his contract to "ensure that his content would not be used for advertisements to re-elect President Trump."

Actor Dennis Quaid also initially agreed and then pulled out, according to a document from Atlas Research. In an Instagram video post last month titled "No good deed goes unpoliticized," Quaid said he was frustrated that a taped interview he did with Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, for the campaign was portrayed in the media as an endorsement of Trump.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Quaid said, noting that the interview was still available on his podcast.

Antony and Quaid were among just a few celebrities who were approved for the campaign, according to the documents. Others included TV health commentator Dr. Oz and singer Billy Ray Cyrus.

"Spokespeople for public service campaigns should be chosen on their ability to reach the target audience, not their political affiliation," the letter from the Democrats reads. "Yet, documents produced by the contractors indicate that the Trump Administration vetted spokespeople based on their political positions and whether they support President Trump."

---

Associated Press writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

## Trump paints apocalyptic portrait of life in US under Biden

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The suburbs wouldn't be the suburbs anymore, the economy would sink into its worst depression ever and police departments would cease to exist. Even America's older adults would be left to figure out how to get by without heat, air conditioning or electricity.

This is the apocalyptic version of American life that President Donald Trump argues would be the dire consequence of turning over the White House to Democrat Joe Biden.

"He'll bury you in regulations, dismantle your police departments, dissolve our borders, confiscate your guns, terminate religious liberty, destroy your suburbs," Trump said in one of many over-the-top pronouncements about Biden in the campaign's final weeks. Trump typically makes his warning about the fate of suburbia as he showcases his own decision to end federal regulations that govern the placement of low-income housing in the suburbs.

Campaign rhetoric can often become heated and hyperbolic as candidates scrap for every last advantage before the votes are counted.

Experts say instilling fear in one's opponent is usually the primary motivating factor behind such talk as candidates seek to give voters a reason to put a checkmark next to their name on the ballot.

"It's pure fear and fear based on a particular kind of ignorance that only works if your hearers have that particular kind of ignorance," Robin Lakoff, professor emerita of linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, said of Trump's claims about Biden.

Trump made fear — particularly the fear of immigrants — a major theme of his 2016 campaign. Now,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 71 of 73

he is giving voters a laundry list of mostly implausible reasons to fear a Biden presidency.

"This election is a choice between a TRUMP RECOVERY or a BIDEN DEPRESSION," the president tweeted, echoing what he tells supporters at rallies. "It's a choice between a TRUMP BOOM or a BIDEN LOCKDOWN. It's a choice between our plan to Kill the virus – or Biden's plan to kill the American Dream!"

Trump has criticized Biden for saying he'd follow the scientists, and the president claims the Democrat would shut the country down. In fact, Biden hasn't said whether he'd endorse large-scale shutdowns of the nation's economy, if things get drastically worse, like much of the country did in March.

"If you vote for Biden, it means no kids in school, no graduations, no weddings, no Thanksgiving, no Christmas and no Fourth of July together," Trump said at a rally Wednesday in Goodyear, Arizona. "Other than that, you have a wonderful life."

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, said Trump's rhetoric is effective with people who are already disposed to believe such things about Biden. But to a person who is not in the audience, she said, such talk is a "sign of desperation."

"The problem with the rhetoric is it's an alienating rhetoric for people who hear it as extreme and improbable," Jamieson said. It's also problematic, she said, "because you expect a president of the United States to calibrate his rhetoric to reality in at least some plausible way."

Last week in Florida, Trump sought to boost his standing among older Americans angered by his response to the coronavirus by portraying Biden as the one who would do them harm. Trump falsely said Biden's energy plan "would mean that America's seniors have no air conditioning during the summer, no heat during the winter and no electricity during peak hours."

During a summer of unrest that followed the police killings of Black men, Trump sought to portray Biden as beholden to the "radical-left" forces Trump claimed were behind the protests. He also argued that Biden wouldn't be able to keep such unrest from spreading to the suburbs.

David Zarefsky, who teaches courses about presidential rhetoric at Northwestern, said close examination shows the weakness in Trump's argument about Biden and the suburbs.

"I think most people would not put it together as being a sound argument," said Zarefsky, a past president of the Rhetoric Society of America.

Leading Democrats have deployed their own dire talk.

In July, Biden said Trump was the country's first racist president, which glossed over the presidents before Trump who had held slaves.

"We've had racists, and they've existed. They've tried to get elected president," Biden said. "He's the first one that has."

And in his Democratic National Convention speech, former President Barack Obama said four more years of the Republican in the White House would jeopardize American democracy.

"That's what's at stake right now. Our democracy," Obama said.

Jamieson said that claim is different because it is grounded in the president's own norm-busting behavior, such as his attacks on the Justice Department and on the press, or his unfounded challenges to voting by mail and the legitimacy of Tuesday's election.

"Those who are making the argument about Trump are offering evidence from his rhetoric and actions," she said, adding that the attacks on Biden are "not justified by what he's said or done."

Vanessa Beasley, a professor of communication studies at Vanderbilt University, said all presidents fall back on "us versus them" rhetoric during campaigns, but that once in office the rhetoric is tempered by the reality of having to govern for all.

She cited Obama as an example, noting the disappointment among some of his supporters after he was elected and the aspirational "hope and change" rhetoric that helped power his political rise gave way to more measured discourse.

"The difference with Trump," she added, "is that he never stops the 'us versus them.'"

Beasley added that hyperbolic rhetoric can be optimistic, citing President Ronald Reagan's "Morning in America" campaign from the 1980s as a classic example.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 72 of 73

"Hyperbole doesn't always have to go to fear," she said.

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/>.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 30, the 304th day of 2020. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 2005, the body of Rosa Parks arrived at the U.S. Capitol, where the civil rights icon became the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda; President George W. Bush and congressional leaders paused to lay wreaths by her casket.

On this date:

In 1735 (New Style calendar), the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1885, poet Ezra Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho.

In 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day. (Sherman was replaced with Nicholas Murray Butler, but Taft, the Republican candidate, ended up losing in an Electoral College landslide to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.)

In 1921, the silent film classic "The Sheik," starring Rudolph Valentino, premiered in Los Angeles.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1984, police in Poland found the body of kidnapped pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko (YEHR'-zee pah-pee-WOOSH'-goh), whose death was blamed on security officers.

In 1985, schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that would carry her and six other crew members to their deaths in Jan. 1986.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 2001, Ukraine destroyed its last nuclear missile silo, fulfilling a pledge to give up the vast nuclear arsenal it had inherited after the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

In 2002, Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell), a rapper with the hip-hop group Run-DMC, was killed in a shooting in New York. He was 37.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama implored voters to resist a Republican tide, warning that if the GOP prevailed in midterm elections, all the progress of his first two years in office could be "rolled back." Comedians Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart headlined a "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear" in Washington attended by tens of thousands. The Texas Rangers beat San Francisco 4-2, cutting the Giants' World Series edge to 2-1.

Five years ago: The United States escalated its fight against the Islamic State in Syria, pledging the first open deployment of military boots on the ground. A fire broke out at a nightclub in Bucharest, Romania, killing 64 people. Character actor Al Molinaro, 96, died in Glendale, California. The New York Mets defeated the Kansas City Royals, 9-3, in Game 3 of the World Series, cutting the Royals' lead to 2-1.

One year ago: The Washington Nationals won the first World Series title in franchise history, capturing



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 119 ~ 73 of 73

Game 7 over the Houston Astros by a score of 6-2; the team had rallied from behind to win five elimination games in the post-season and had achieved all four of their wins in Houston's ballpark. Reacting to growing concern about the spread of misinformation on social media, Twitter banned all political advertising from its service. New York City lawmakers passed a bill banning restaurants and grocery stores from selling foie gras, the fattened liver of a duck or goose; animal welfare activists said the methods used to produce it were cruel.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 83. Rock singer Grace Slick is 81. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 79. Actor Joanna Shimkus is 77. Actor Henry Winkler is 75. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 74. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 74. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 73. Actor Leon Rippey is 71. Actor Harry Hamlin is 69. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 67. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 66. Actor Kevin Pollak is 63. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 60. Actor Michael Beach is 57. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 55. Actor Jack Plotnick is 52. Comedian Ben Bailey is 50. Actor Billy Brown is 50. Actor Nia Long is 50. Country singer Kassadey Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 44. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 42. Actor Matthew Morrison is 42. Business executive and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 39. Actor Fiona Dourif is 39. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 39. Actor Tasso Feldman is 37. Actor Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 32. Actor Tequan Richmond is 28. Actor Kennedy McMann is 24.