

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Region 1A Volleyball Action Tonight 7 p.m. Groton Area at Sisseton



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

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

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## GDILIVE.COM Region 1A Volleyball

Mon., Nov., 2, 2020  
Groton Area at Sisseton  
7 p.m.

### Groton Area Tigers (6-14)

#### VARSITY

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

Head Coach: Chelsea Hanson  
Asst. Coaches: Jenna Strom, Carla Tracy  
Managers: Shelby Hjermstad  
Superintendent: Joe Schwan  
Principal: Kiersten Sombke  
Ath. Director: Brian Dolan  
School Colors: Black/Gold  
School Song: Fight On

### Sisseton Pheasants (9-7)

#### VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Kierra Silk	5'9	OH	12
2	Avery Despiegler	5'8	OH	11
3	Annika Estwick	5'3	DS	10
4	Emmalee Nielsen	5'8	RH	9
6	Ali Metz	5'6	RH/DS	12
11	Georgia Hamm	5'5	OH	11
12	Hailey Nelson	5'6	RH/S	11
13	Linnea Silk	5'10	MB	10
14	Chloe Langager	5'10	MB	9
15	Alexis Metz	5'5	OH/DS	12
17	Kelsey Heath	5'5	DS	12

Head Coach: Jennifer Fisher  
Asst. Coaches: Jaylen Heller, Eric Heath  
Managers: Paige Huber, Cadence DuMarce  
Superintendent: Tammy Meyer  
Principal: Jim Frederick  
Ath. Director: Jack Appel  
Ath. Trainer: Dan Ziemer  
Strength/Cond.: Tyler Appel  
School Colors: Red/Black/White  
School Song: Minnesota Rouser

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## Region 1A Volleyball Tournament

[Print Bracket](#)

### #1 Aberdeen Roncalli

Scores:

Date: November 5, 2020

Time: 7:00

Site: Aberdeen Roncalli

### SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

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### #4 Sisseton

Scores:

Date: November 2, 2020

Time: 7:00

Site: Sisseton

Scores:

Scores:

### #5 Groton Area

### #2 Webster Area

Scores:

Date: November 3, 2020

Time: 7:00

Site: Webster Area

Scores:

Scores:

### #7 Milbank

Date: November 5, 2020

Time: 7:00

Site: High Seed

### SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

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### #3 Redfield

Scores:

Date: November 3, 2020

Time: 7:00

Site: Redfield

Scores:

Scores:

### #6 Tiospa Zina

School	Seed Pts.
Aberdeen Roncalli	43.273
Webster Area	41.188
Redfield	40.850
Sisseton	40.313
Groton Area	38.250
Tiospa Zina	37.077
Milbank	35.588

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## Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club

November 2020

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club met on November 1, 2020 at the Claremont Methodist Church. American Pledge was led by Kennedy Anderson. The 4-H Pledge was led by Hudson Eichler. Roll call topic was favorite Thanksgiving food. There were no communications. The treasure's report was approved by Colin Frey and 2nd by Andrew Marzahn. There were no additions or improvements. The Secretary Report was approved by Kennedy Anderson and 2nd by Walker Zoellner. There was no old business. Old business was closed by Ashlynn Warrington and 2nd by Blake Pauli. For new business the club read the newshound and talked about 4-H enrollment. New business was closed by Colin Frey and 2nd by Logan Warrington. The meeting was adjourned by Braden Boe and 2nd by Colin Frey. There were two club talks. Walker Zoellner talked about grain cart- what to know and Andrew Marzahn talked about how to make a snowman jar. The club members made snowman jars for Christmas party gifts. Lunch was served by the Darin and Anne Zoellner family.

Submitted by Logan Warrington, Club Reporter

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The Minnesota Vikings (2-5) faced a tough test coming out of their bye week, traveling to Green Bay to battle the red-hot Packers (5-2). This game was supposed to be an easy victory by the Packers, who had only lost one game all season and were looking like one of the best teams in the league. The Vikings, on the other hand, were off to one of the worst starts in franchise history and had just traded their starting defensive end in a move that many assumed meant the team was waving the white flag on the season. While many fans were hoping the Vikings would lose this game and thereby giving them a better shot at the top draft pick, the players were all too happy to disappoint fans on Sunday after the 28-22 win.



By Jordan Wright

The game started with both teams doing whatever they wanted on offense. Green Bay got the ball first and drove 75 yards on 13 plays to take a 7-0 lead. The Vikings answered with a 10-play, 73-yard drive of their own to tie the score. Green Bay found the end zone on the following drive (15 plays, 72 yards). Not to be out-done, Minnesota went 67-yards on 12 plays to tie the game 14-14, and suddenly it was halftime.

The Vikings got the ball to start the second half and picked up right where they left off, with a 10-play, 85-yard drive to take a 21-14 lead. Green Bay's luck ran out on their next drive and they turned the ball over on downs. The Vikings took advantage of the opportunity quickly, moving the ball 63 yards on only four plays and taking a 28-14 lead. From there, the Vikings' offense would fail to put up any more points, but the defense was ready and was able to hold Aaron Rodgers and the Packers offense to only one more touchdown and preserving the win. To make it even more impressive, the Vikings were down to only two healthy cornerbacks in the second half of the game after Cameron Dantzler went down with a scary injury and had to be taken off the field on a stretcher, and Kris Boyd went down holding his knee with a non-contact injury.

## Player of the game

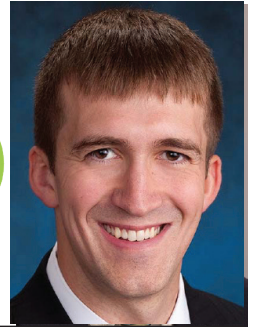
This one is easy. Dalvin Cook made history on Sunday, accounting for 226 yards and all four touchdowns for the Vikings. He is the first player in NFL history to score a touchdown on his team's first four possessions, he is the third player in Vikings history to have over 200 yards and four touchdowns in a game (Chuck Foreman, Ahmad Rashad), and he is the first player with over 200 yards and four touchdowns against Green Bay in Lambeau Field. It was a fantastic day for the fourth-year running back, and reaffirms why the Vikings elected to give him a contract extension this season.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will return home and prepare to welcome the Detroit Lions to U.S. Bank Stadium. The Lions are 3-4 this season, most recently losing 41-21 to the Indianapolis Colts. The Lions will bring many familiar faces with them, most notably Adrian Peterson and Everson Griffen (who was recently traded from Dallas to Detroit). The Vikings have a good chance to win this game, which I'm sure will make many fans upset. But like Herm Edwards famously said, "You play to win the game!" Skol!



## Choose Respect Not Fear

My son is a cub scout, and I am den leader. Recently our den met outside and practiced putting up tents and learned how to build a fire. With efforts to stay distanced, every scout made his own s'more, and we had such a fun time.



**By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives**

One highlight of the evening was letting each scout try to light the fire. We went through a series of mistakes with the matches and thankfully no one got hurt. They were so proud to learn how to light a match and start a fire. However, it was also daunting for them. One scout specifically commented on how excited he was and how scared he was. I tried to teach safe techniques and explained how you do not need to fear fire, but you do need to respect it.

Approaching something with respect rather than fear is helpful in so many things in life. Whether it be a wild animal, fire, or a weapon, cautious respect is usually more helpful than fear. Education and experience, without losing that caution and respect, may be lifesaving.

Those principles could be helpful as we cope with COVID-19. Depending on your situation, you may not be afraid, or you could be overcome with fear. On the one hand, fear could paralyze us and cripple our response. On the other hand, a complete disregard for measures to help decrease the spread of the virus is like being careless with fire. We all want to return to a normalcy and way of life that is healthy physically, mentally, socially, and economically. However, cases are on the rise and denial of reality and a disregard for others is fuel for the fire.

The efforts of so many people to decrease the spread such as social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, and being careful is helping to give scientists more time to research treatments and vaccinations. Progress is being made, and so many people are united in the same goal of getting through this pandemic, safely, together.

Recently I was visiting with a 98-year-old man. I asked him about this pandemic and what he experienced in the Great Depression and World War II. He was confident we would get through this. We will succeed if we do not let ourselves become divided, but work together, treating the virus with caution, and supporting those around us.

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

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#252 in a series

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I am accustomed to Sundays coming in low, especially for deaths. This week was a surprise; the number of new cases is way too large for a Sunday, which makes me very nervous about what we're going to see by Tuesday when the weekend testing slow-down is through the system; however deaths were as low as expected, so there's that. We're going to go light on news again tonight. For today, we're at 9,278,400 cases reported in the US so far in the pandemic. Today, there were 80,100 new case reports, a 0.9% increase from yesterday. We've been over 50,000 cases for two solid weeks and over 70,000 for a week, not a great situation. There were 385 deaths reported today, a 0.2% increase to 230,879.

I've sorted out my spreadsheet problem, so I have a full two-week summary again on this Sunday night: Growth rates are still increasing this week. We are seeing increasing rates of growth in more states than last week. One-week increase in total cases was 511,400 (6.3%) last week and is 578,300 (6.6%) this week. Two-week increase was 908,100 (11.7%) last week and is 1,089,700 (13.3%) this week—first time we've been over a million in any two-week period. I have us at a one-week average new-case number of 82,614, well above last week's 73,057. This is really not going well.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and we're up to 10 of these showing two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states and territories with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Wyoming (52.06% - huge increase), Montana (46.77% - decreased), South Dakota (42.25 - increased), North Dakota (40.85% - increased), Alaska (39.07%), Connecticut (38.00%), Wisconsin (37.44% - big increase), Colorado (28.91% - increased), New Mexico (28.39%), and Guam (25.56%). You will see South Dakota reappearing on this list; it's been off for a few weeks, but should not have been. This is how I spotted my formula problems last week; South Dakota's position on the two-week increase list just didn't make sense, and when I investigated, I discovered its percentage was not computing correctly. I should have spotted it sooner since I have more than an academic interest in the state, but there we are—things are right now. Also new this week are Colorado and New Mexico. We have 31 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which confirms what we know—that there is no center to this surge; it's happening across the country. Highest per capita new-case numbers in the past week are in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Montana, Iowa, Wyoming, and Nebraska, a fair amount of change since last week, although the Dakotas continue to head this list.

I have a piece of good news: The survival rate in people with Covid-19 has increased considerably since we started this thing, quite considerably. In one hospital system in New York which was losing 30% of hospitalized patients, that rate had dropped to 3% by July. Similar results have occurred in other places too; in England, ICU survival rates improved from 60% in late March to over 80% at the end of June. This sort of change has been widespread. There is no evidence at all that the virus has become less virulent (or more virulent either, for that matter), so what's changed isn't the virus. We're left to wonder what's going on. Turns out, a few things.

For starters, elderly and more vulnerable people have largely been taking more precautions, staying home when possible, masking, distancing, hygiene—you know the drill. That means more of the people getting sick and going to the hospital have been younger, healthier, and more resilient, that is, more likely to survive; by the end of August the average patient was under 40. But that's not all we're seeing.

A study done at NYT Langone Health took a look at more than 5000 patients hospitalized at three hospitals from March through August, controlling statistically for differences in age, sex, race, underlying health problems, and severity of symptoms at admission. They found that death rates had dropped significantly, from 25.6% in March to 7.6% in August. Dr. Leora Horwitz, director of NYT Langone's Center for Healthcare Innovation & Delivery Science, said, "This is still a high death rate, much higher than we see for flu or other respiratory diseases. I don't want to pretend this is benign. But it definitely is something that has given me hope."

Dr. Robert A. Phillips, chief physician executive at Houston Methodist and author of a research letter

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in the Journal of the American Medical Association comparing early and later surges in his city, concurs: "The mortality rates are way lower now." He also took pains to add that this disease remains "not only deadly—10 times more deadly probably than a bad influenza—but it also has long-term complications. You don't have that from the flu." Neither of these studies assessed the post-Covid morbidity burden which leaves patients with long-term damage to lungs, nervous system, heart, and other organ systems. Still, a higher proportion of people is surviving, and that's definitely good.

So if it's not demographics, what is driving this lower mortality? A huge share of the answer is that we're getting better—lots better—at treating people. Experience teaches, and lots of experience teaches better. With the kinds of numbers being treated back in the spring, there was plenty of experience to be had, and as awful as it was, we learned: whether and when to use mechanical ventilation, how to use proning (placing patients on their bellies to ease breathing) and supplemental oxygen to obviate the need for a vent, that we should watch for abnormal clotting and kidney failure, that it helps to monitor oxygen levels even before patients are hospitalized, the importance of attending to many organs besides the lungs, which drugs help and how to use them. All of this leads to better outcomes.

In addition to that, there is heightened community awareness so that patients know to seek care earlier in their disease, giving them a better chance to do well. And loads on hospitals had gotten lighter than they were in those early nightmare days in the Northeast that was hard-hit early. Last spring, we had people whose specialty was not managing intensive care patients managing intensive care patients, we had wildly overcrowded hospitals, and we had exhausted, overtaxed staff. Care is going to suffer under crisis conditions, no matter the skills and dedication of the people providing the care. As case numbers in those hospitals dropped, workers were once again able to do the kind of work they are capable of and committed to doing.

But here's the bad news: We are now having those sorts of problems all across the country. Once again, the number of hospitalized patients has soared, and this has occurred to a larger extent in smaller, more rural hospitals in places where there aren't many of the sorts of specialists needed. Hospital administrators in Idaho, Utah, and Missouri are warning they're close to capacity. The hospitals to which these places would generally transfer the very ill can't always take them, being under siege themselves. For example, in Missouri, hospitals in St. Louis are reporting their ICUs are at 90% capacity with no relief in sight. This issue spills over into rural communities where a good share of the new cases are turning up. Many small rural hospitals do not have big, sophisticated intensive care units; they're accustomed to shipping their sickest patients to large cities where big hospitals can provide the high level of care needed. But according to Jeff A. Tindle, chief executive of Carroll County Memorial Hospital in Carrollton, Missouri, "there are no beds and we just can't get them placed." The upshot of that is his hospital is holding these very ill people in the emergency room where their best equipment is found, "but certainly not the equipment you'd find in a large medical center I.C.U."

This is a problem for the hospitals and a big problem for the patients. It is compounded by the fact that, not only do they lack the equipment they need, they also are not generally staffed with people equipped to care for patients this sick; often they were short of staff altogether. Anecdotally, people I know who work in hospitals in more rural settings—and I know quite a few of those after 40+ years teaching them—are telling me they are stretched to the limit, working ridiculous hours, swamped with patients, exhausted. So whether these hospitals are "full" in technical terms, some of them are maxed out in terms of their ability to care for patients. Available beds don't mean much if you can't staff them: I understand your average patient does not provide self-care. This is most concerning.

All of that makes this next an even larger worry: Deaths in raw numbers are rising. When you have skyrocketing case numbers, you're going to get rapidly spiking hospitalization rates, and even with better survival, increased hospitalizations translate to more deaths. And this is precisely what we're seeing. Hospitalizations and deaths lag new infections, but they inevitably follow, and so here we are. We are regularly recording near or over 1000 deaths in a day now, and the daily average is expected to continue rising. A lot. The signs all indicate this is a direct reflection of the surge in cases we're still experiencing



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with no signs it is tapering off. So despite our improving mortality rates, the number of actual people dying is rising. I don't think it's much comfort to the dying person or to the person's family and friends that mortality rates are dropping. After all, in any one case, the mortality rate is either 0% or 100%, and dead is dead. No getting around that.

One of the bright spots in this long, slow-rolling disaster has been the way many of us have risen to the challenge of showing caring for others. Sometimes those people are the ordinary folks you and I see every day—or used to, back when we were seeing people. Sometimes they're rather more well-known. One of the well-known variety is the country singer, Dolly Parton. She's been known for a long time for her charitable efforts, notably providing some 150 million books to children who otherwise wouldn't have access to them and providing a \$1000 per month stipend to Tennessee wildfire survivors. Well, she's stepped up again. She's giving her time in a web series called "Goodnight with Dolly" in which she reads bedtime stories to children stuck at home during the pandemic. And that's not all she's doing.

There is a big convalescent plasma study underway at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, the heart of the country music industry. The reason this study is underway is that back in April, Parton wrote Vanderbilt a check for \$1 million for Covid-19 research. This project begun with her generous donation has now acquired National Institutes of Health funding and expanded to 51 sites across the country with a goal to enroll 1000 participants in a double-blind controlled study which will help to determine the efficacy of convalescent serum.

Of course, if you're going to treat with convalescent serum, you need ordinary people to step up too—to donate their plasma. You can't manufacture this stuff; it has to come from the bloodstreams of real people, and it was difficult to find donors. That sounds like a problem for a different famous person, The Rock. Dwayne Johnson, the wrestler-turned-movie-star, stepped up too, making himself the face of a public-private effort called "The Fight Is in Us." His job is to encourage survivors to donate plasma; in a PSA, he says, "If you survived it, then you're the heroes we need. You fought for your life. Now, let's work together to take down Covid-19."

Parton released a new single back when we had only around 100,000 dead, called "When Life is Good Again," and I think the song is a service too. Here are the closing lines:

We'll make it through this long dark night  
Darkness fades when faced with light  
But everything's gonna be all right  
When life is good again

The more of us step up to bring that light, the sooner "everything's gonna be all right." We all want that. Be well. We'll talk again.

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## 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	Oct. 31	Nov. 01	Nov. 02	
Minnesota	137,536	139,444	142,311	145,465	148,472	150,672	
Nebraska	65,376	66,545	68,150	69,645	70,732	70,732	
Montana	29,346	29,966	30,853	31,916	32,801	33,495	
Colorado	98,733	100,208	102,014	104,426	107,350	109,910	
Wyoming	10,035	10,288	10,589	11,020	11,276	11,638	
North Dakota	39,130	39,907	41,130	42,483	43,916	45,043	
South Dakota	39,494	40,589	41,507	44,559	45,992	47,324	
United States	8,779,794	8,859,432	8,947,862	9,048,430	9,127,108	9,208,876	
US Deaths	226,728	227,703	228,675	229,711	230,566	231,003	
Minnesota	+2,164	1,908	+2,867	+3,154	+3,007	+2,200	
Nebraska	+877	1,169	+1,605	+1,495	+1,087	----	
Montana	+845	+620	+887	+1,063	+885	+694	
Colorado	+1,433	1,475	+1,806	+2,412	+2,924	2,560	
Wyoming	+252	+253	+301	+431	+256	+362	
North Dakota	+896	+781	1,222	+1,353	+1,434	+1,128	
South Dakota	+984	+1,095	+918	+1,560	+1,433	+1,332	
United States	+74,667	+79,638	+88,430	+100,568	+78,678	+81,768	
US Deaths	+989	+975	+972	+1,036	+855	+437	

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## November 1st COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

You may remember some time ago that I said the high numbers back then will start showing up in recovered cases. They showed up with a mighty force today as we had more recovered than positive cases, dropping the active cases in South Dakota by 1,235 down to 13,138. Most counties showed a reduction in their active cases.

Starting with today's report, I've included hospitalizations for the state and for each region. They are under the South Dakota report.

The percent recovered ticked just over 71 percent today for the state and just over 80 percent for Brown County.

There were 12 deaths in South Dakota. Five were females and seven males. Six were in the 80+ age group, two in their 70s and four in their 60s. Walworth County had two deaths, Charles Mix and Clark counties each recorded their first deaths while others having one were Brookings, Corson, Douglas, Jerauld, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Moody and Roberts.

Glacial Lakes hospital beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients as well as Minnehaha and Pennington counties: Walworth: 4 (-1) Occupied Beds; Potter: 6 Occupied Beds; Hughes: 9 Occupied Beds, 4 (+1) ICU Beds, 2 Ventilation; Faulk: 0 (-2) Occupied Beds; Edmunds: 2 (+1) Occupied Bed; Brown: 15 Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 2 (+1) Ventilation; Spink: 2 Occupied Beds; Day: 3 Occupied Beds; Marshall: 1 (-1) Occupied Beds; Grant: 4 Occupied Beds; Codington: 9 Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 1 Ventilation; None (some counties have no hospitals): Clark, Hand, Hyde, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, McPherson, Roberts; Minnehaha: 189 (+1) Occupied Beds, 44 (-1) ICU, 32 (+5) Ventilation; Pennington: 80 (+8) Occupied Beds, 14 ICU, 7 (-1) Ventilation

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +70 (2,220) Positivity Rate: 32.2%

Total Tests: +217 (18,598)

Recovered: +22 (1,676)

Active Cases: -40 (428)

Ever Hospitalized: +2 (116)

Deaths: +0 (6)

Percent Recovered: 80.5%

#### **Hospital Reports:**

Avera St. Luke's: Covid-19 Occupied 14; ICU 4 (+1), Ventilation 2 (+1).

Sanford Aberdeen: Covid-19 Occupied 1.

Sanford Webster: Covid-19 Occupied 3.

Marshall County Healthcare: Covid-19 Occupied 1 (-1).

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +1332 (47,324 total) Positivity Rate: 23.8%

Total Tests: 5,596 (438,311 total)

Hospitalized: +38 (2,721 total). 421 currently hospitalized (+6)

Deaths: +12 (437 total)

Recovered: +2555 (31,194 total)

Active Cases: -1235 (13,138)

Percent Recovered: 71.3%

Total COVID-19 Occupied Beds: 421 (+6), Black Hills Region 113 (+12), Glacial Lakes Region 55 (-3), Sioux Empire Region 207 (+1), South Central Plains 46 (+3).

ICU Units: Total 79 (+2), BH 14 (0), GL 12 (+1), SE 46 (-1), SCP 7 (+2).

Ventilation: Total 43 (+2), BH 7 (-1), GL 3 (-1), SE 32 (+5), SCP 1 (-1).

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 15% Covid, 51% Non-Covid, 34% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 27% Covid, 35% Non-Covid, 38% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 10% Covid, 16% Non-Covid, 73% Available

Brown (6): +70 positive, +110 recovered (428 active cases)

Clark (1): +6 positive, +9 recovered (67 active cases)

Clay (8): +12 positive, +44 recovered (160 active cases)

Codington (15): +68 positive, +109 recovered (363 active cases)

Davison (10): +52 positive, +83 recovered (389 active cases)

Day (2): +5 positive, +12 recovered (40 active cases)

Edmunds (1): +4 positive, +7 recovered (31 active cases)

Faulk (2): +4 positive, +19 recovered (50 active cases)

Grant (2): +13 positive, +23 recovered (64 active cases)

Hanson (1): +3 positive, +6 recovered (38 active cases)

Hughes (8): +33 positive, +54 recovered (163 active cases)

Lawrence (6): +40 positive, +55 recovered (344 active cases)

Lincoln (21): +96 positive, +155 recovered (985 active cases)

Marshall (1): +0 positive, +5 recovered (7 active cases)

McCook (1): +20 positive, +12 recovered (118 active cases)

McPherson: +0 positive, +4 recovery (15 active case)

Minnehaha (111): +342 positive, +522 recovered (3479 active cases)

Potter: +15 positive, +8 recovered (53 active cases)

Roberts (6): +18 positive, +18 recovered (88 active cases)

Spink (1): +15 positive, +22 recovered (96 active cases)

Walworth (10): +7 positive, +27 recovered (56 active cases)

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

COVID-19 Daily Report, November 1:

- 12.3% rolling 14-day positivity
- 1,128 new positives
- 8,940 susceptible test encounters
- 200 currently hospitalized (+7)
- 8,370 active cases (+511)
- 531 total deaths (+7)

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	205	150	715	0	Substantial	16.67%
Beadle	1397	1035	4074	15	Substantial	22.32%
Bennett	220	136	960	5	Substantial	14.36%
Bon Homme	1016	345	1654	1	Substantial	54.53%
Brookings	1545	1201	6611	6	Substantial	21.65%
Brown	2220	1786	8779	6	Substantial	19.69%
Brule	317	226	1439	2	Substantial	37.09%
Buffalo	272	226	811	4	Substantial	30.70%
Butte	420	232	2132	3	Substantial	23.05%
Campbell	82	64	164	1	Moderate	17.86%
Charles Mix	438	311	3046	1	Substantial	12.03%
Clark	145	77	692	1	Substantial	18.30%
Clay	877	709	3404	8	Substantial	22.08%
Codington	1666	1288	6566	15	Substantial	20.86%
Corson	238	145	793	2	Substantial	56.06%
Custer	336	267	1749	3	Substantial	26.02%
Davison	1099	700	4577	10	Substantial	19.09%
Day	177	135	1230	2	Substantial	26.67%
Deuel	201	159	802	1	Substantial	26.73%
Dewey	404	258	3401	0	Substantial	13.72%
Douglas	180	137	709	5	Substantial	8.13%
Edmunds	154	122	747	1	Substantial	5.83%
Fall River	233	162	1823	6	Substantial	19.53%
Faulk	224	172	525	2	Substantial	29.41%
Grant	326	260	1515	2	Substantial	10.63%
Gregory	254	177	836	10	Substantial	26.05%
Haakon	104	66	421	2	Substantial	9.71%
Hamlin	225	170	1237	0	Substantial	16.20%
Hand	150	89	576	1	Substantial	36.25%
Hanson	110	71	459	1	Substantial	30.30%
Harding	58	30	111	0	Substantial	52.00%
Hughes	921	750	3862	8	Substantial	17.08%
Hutchinson	252	188	1608	2	Substantial	10.08%



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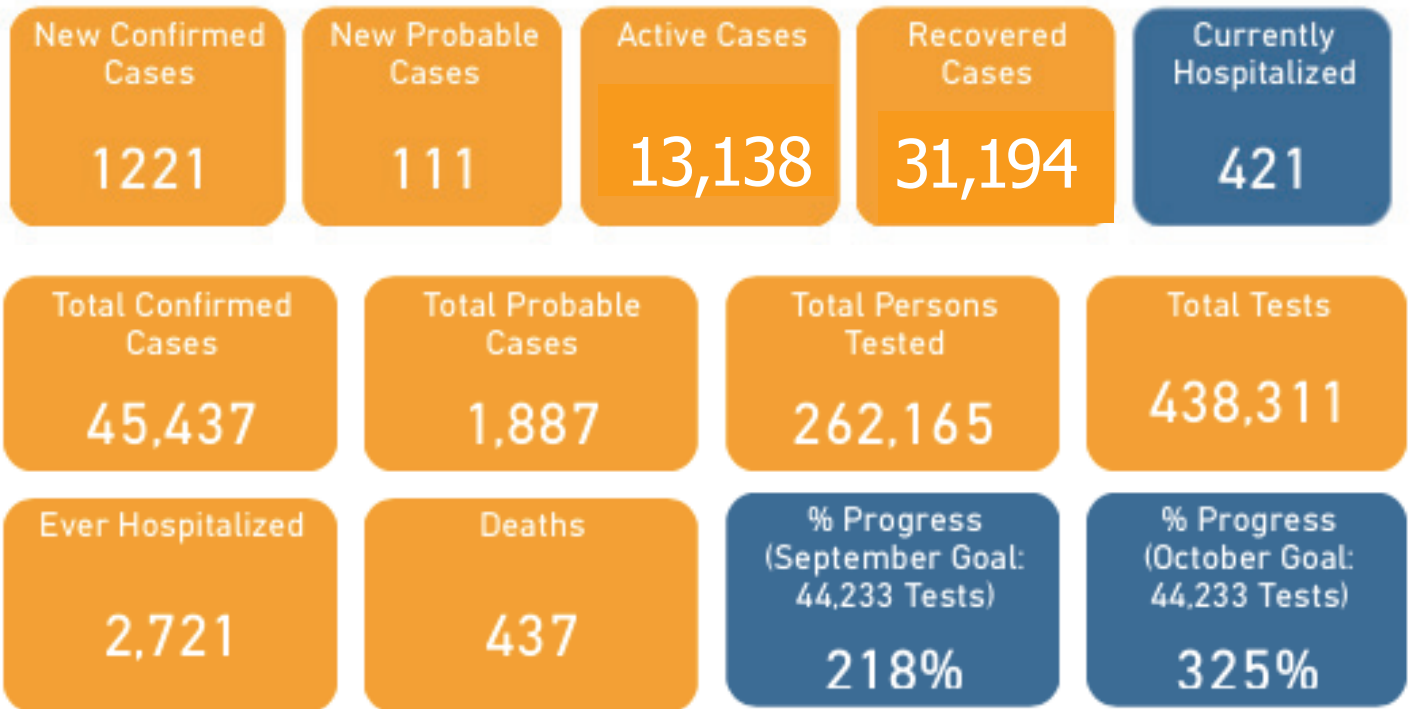
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Hyde	51	36	303	0	Moderate	25.81%
Jackson	137	84	773	3	Substantial	23.91%
Jerauld	170	140	386	13	Minimal	4.76%
Jones	34	29	132	0	Moderate	22.73%
Kingsbury	221	127	1072	2	Substantial	11.58%
Lake	447	305	1917	9	Substantial	28.24%
Lawrence	1061	711	5591	6	Substantial	23.39%
Lincoln	3193	2187	13516	21	Substantial	24.91%
Lyman	294	224	1435	6	Substantial	24.85%
Marshall	65	57	779	1	Moderate	13.33%
McCook	302	183	1116	1	Substantial	15.74%
McPherson	72	57	410	0	Moderate	6.33%
Meade	1040	815	5190	10	Substantial	18.78%
Mellette	94	63	569	1	Substantial	44.44%
Miner	148	92	428	2	Substantial	21.57%
Minnehaha	12667	9077	53735	111	Substantial	22.14%
Moody	240	167	1111	3	Substantial	35.85%
Oglala Lakota	1051	577	5630	9	Substantial	28.08%
Pennington	4914	3625	25827	49	Substantial	18.51%
Perkins	82	64	475	0	Substantial	20.34%
Potter	139	86	609	0	Substantial	8.44%
Roberts	388	294	3313	6	Substantial	25.49%
Sanborn	115	69	457	1	Substantial	26.32%
Spink	315	218	1674	1	Substantial	15.88%
Stanley	101	77	535	0	Substantial	21.95%
Sully	45	35	171	0	Moderate	16.00%
Todd	511	369	3457	6	Substantial	31.68%
Tripp	288	239	1161	2	Substantial	13.41%
Turner	531	338	1857	18	Substantial	17.91%
Union	807	634	4168	12	Substantial	15.70%
Walworth	287	221	1314	10	Substantial	11.18%
Yankton	940	628	6136	6	Substantial	20.13%
Ziebach	108	77	561	2	Moderate	18.92%
Unassigned	0	0	1005	0		

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## South Dakota



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

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1466	0
10-19 years	4921	0
20-29 years	9674	2
30-39 years	8027	7
40-49 years	6710	13
50-59 years	6699	34
60-69 years	5179	61
70-79 years	2665	80
80+ years	1983	240

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	24354	209
Male	22970	228

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## Brown County



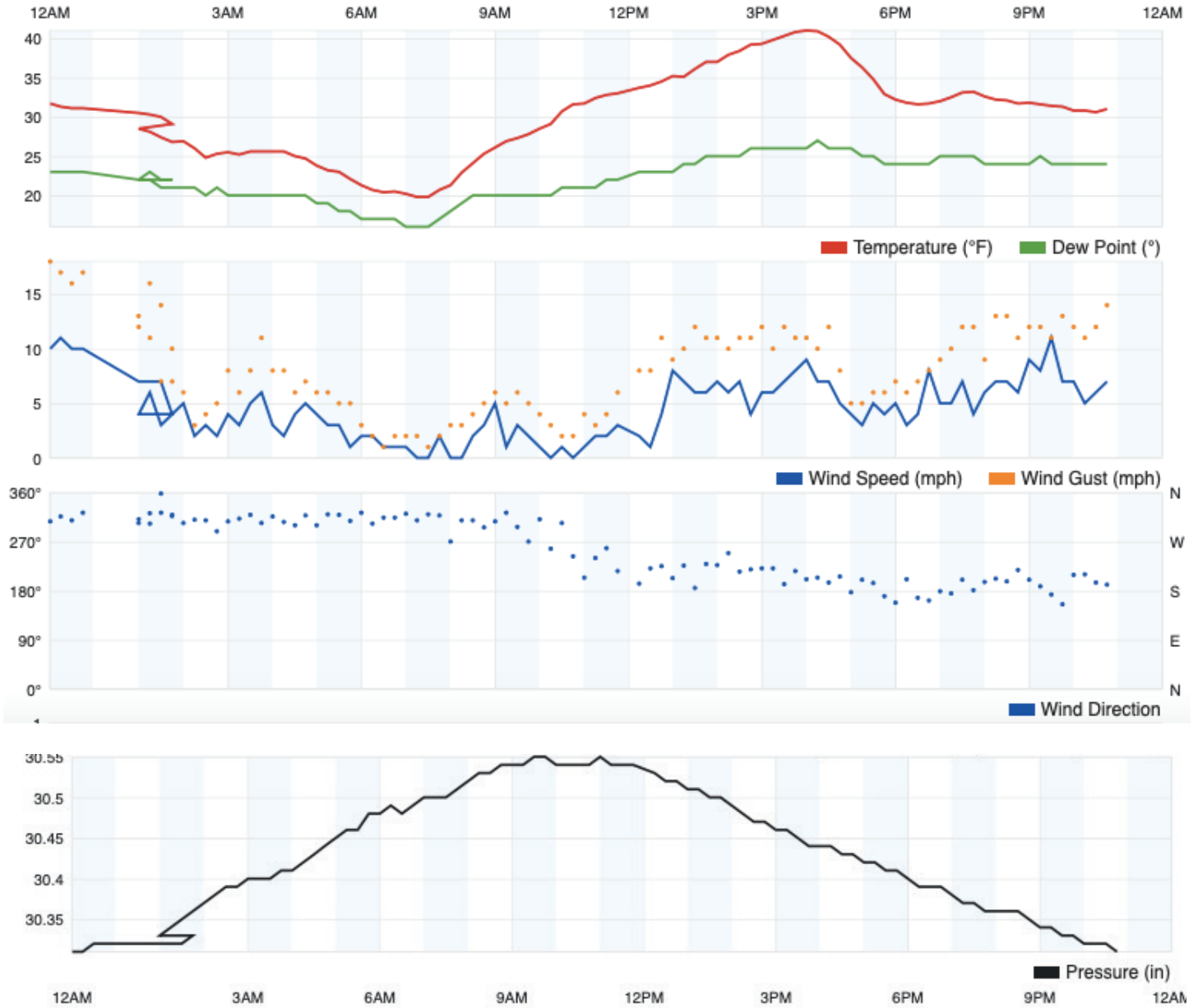
## Day County



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today



Sunny

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Tuesday



Sunny

Tuesday Night



Mostly Clear

Wednesday



Sunny

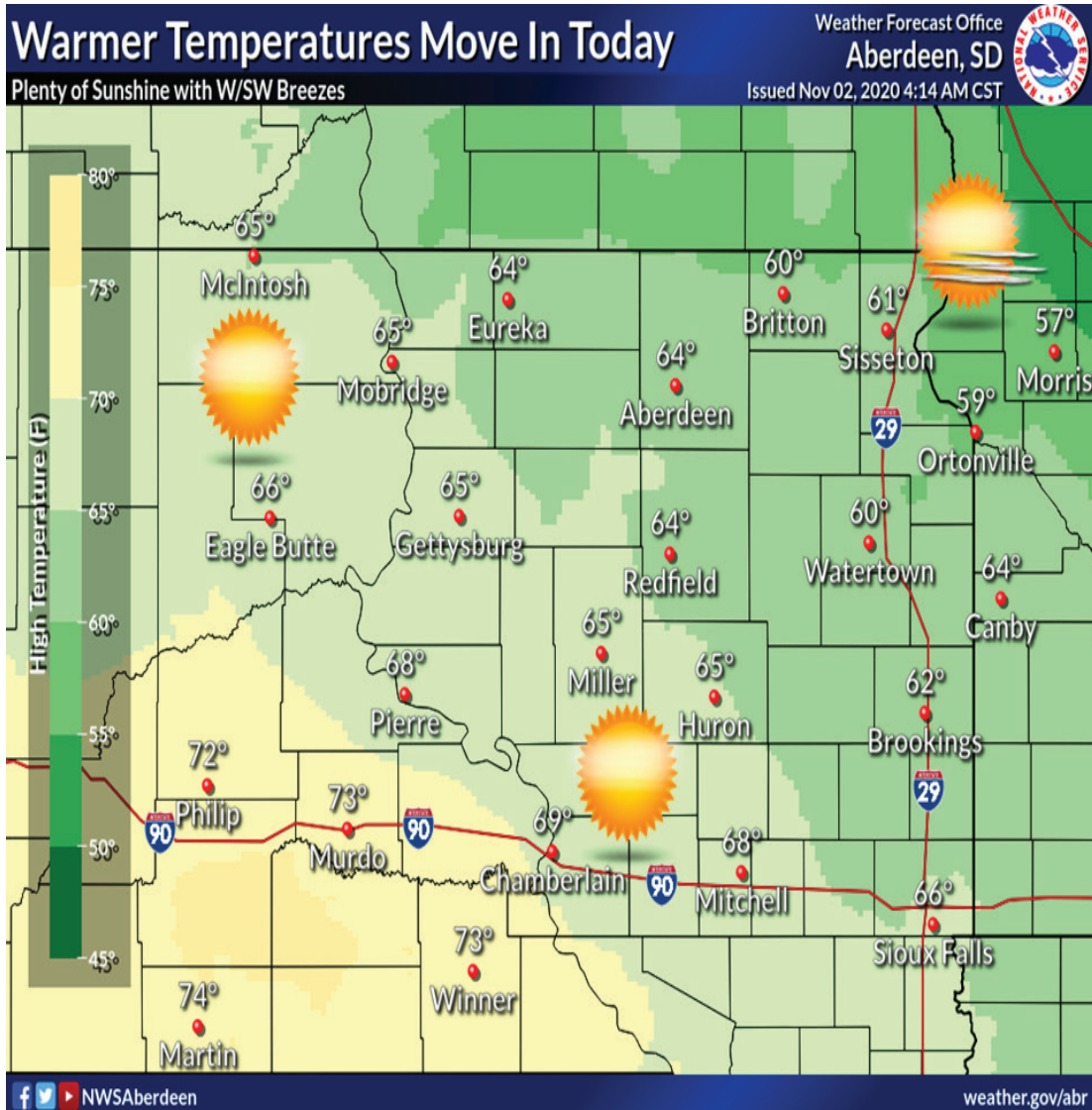
High: 63 °F

Low: 35 °F

High: 69 °F

Low: 35 °F

High: 69 °F



Plenty of sunshine with a few high clouds passing overhead at times and warmer temperatures are on tap for today's weather. Winds will generally be light to moderate at times from the west to southwest. Normal highs this time of year are generally in the upper 40s to low 50s.

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## Today in Weather History

November 2, 1961: A snowstorm began in western South Dakota and spread to the remainder of the state on November 2nd. Snowfall was relatively minimal, with 1 to 3 inches falling over most of the central and eastern parts of the state, but winds of 40 to 50 mph accompanied the storm in eastern South Dakota. Also, temperatures fell rapidly with the passage of a cold front with 24-hour changes of 40 to over 50 degrees. Huron dropped from 73 on the 1st to 21 only 24 hours later, a 52-degree drop.

November 2, 1972: Freezing rain caused up to 2 inches of ice to form on trees, bushes, wires, cars, and buildings. Many trees and utility lines were downed. Some of the most significant damage occurred from Tulare to Redfield and Doland and from Troy to Sisseton in Spink, Brown, Day, Grant, and Roberts Counties. Also, heavy snow up to 20 inches fell in south-central South Dakota. Some snowfall amounts include; 5.2 inches in Huron; 10 inches in Wessington Springs; 12 inches in Platte; 12.5 in Bonesteel and 19.5 inches in Gregory.

November 2, 1997: A low-pressure system over the Great Lakes produced winds of 50 to near 60 mph over much of northern and central South Dakota. In McLaughlin, high winds damaged a catwalk at the McLaughlin livestock auction. Half of the 400-foot walkway was tipped over by the winds. The winds, along with six-foot waves, destroyed an 85-year old 40 x 75-foot dance hall located on Medicine Lake, 15 miles northwest of Watertown. In Aberdeen, brick from a top portion of an abandoned building collapsed. There were also widespread reports of tree limbs blown down.

1743: Benjamin Franklin's "eclipse hurricane" unlocked the key to storm movement. Ben Franklin, at Philadelphia, PA, was prevented from viewing a lunar eclipse in a northeast rainstorm, but his brother, who was in Boston, saw it, though the rain began an hour later.

1946: A tornado hit Washington in Hempstead County in Arkansas, killing one.

1861 - A hurricane near Cape Hatteras, NC, battered a Union fleet of ships attacking Carolina ports, and produced high tides and high winds in New York State and New England. (David Ludlum)

1966 - Santa Anna winds fanned fires, and brought record November heat to parts of coastal California. November records included 86 degrees at San Francisco, 97 degrees at San Diego, and 101 degrees at the International airport in Los Angeles. Fires claimed the lives of at least sixteen firefighters. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - A tornado touched down west of Winslow, AZ, but did little damage in an uninhabited area. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms in central Arizona produced hail an inch in diameter at Williams and Gila Bend, and drenched Payson with 1.86 inches of rain. Hannagan Meadows AZ, meanwhile, was blanketed with three inches of snow. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Ohio Valley. Afternoon highs of 76 degrees at Beckley WV, 77 degrees at Bluefield WV, and 83 degrees at Lexington KY were records for the month of November. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought gales and locally heavy rain to the northeastern U.S. The rainfall total of 1.46 inches at Newark NJ was a record for the date. New York City was soaked with more than two inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A strong cold front ushered snow and arctic air into the north central U.S. Snow whitened North Dakota and the Central High Plains Region. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Denver CO. Yellowstone Park WY was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 4 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

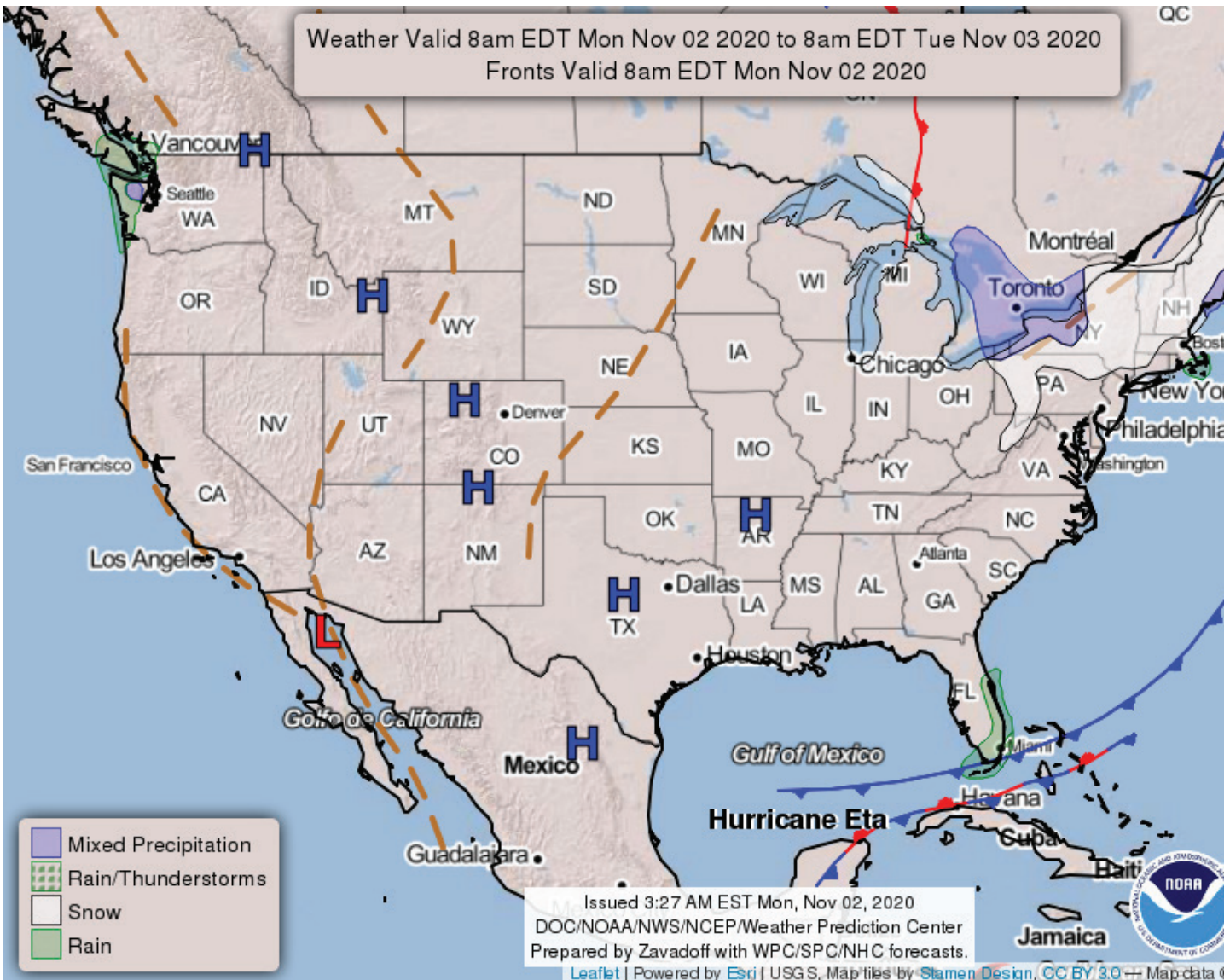
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 41 °F at 3:57 PM**  
**Low Temp: 20 °F at 7:16 AM**  
**Wind: 17 mph at 12:11 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 78° in 1903**  
**Record Low: 0° in 1911**  
**Average High: 48°F**  
**Average Low: 26°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.03**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.50**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:19 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 a.m.**





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## HIS STRENGTH

"Remember, don't BLT," said the surgeon. Of course, that got my attention immediately.

Then he explained, "Do not bend, lift or twist. If you do, you will damage or destroy the work that I did on your spine. You must ask for help from others if you want to heal properly. If you are seated, get help to stand. Do not lift anything that weighs more than five pounds – like a gallon of milk. And, turn your entire body rather than twist if you want to see someone or something that is to your left or right."

As I was wheeled from the hospital to begin the trip home, I could not imagine how different my life was going to be. Being dependent on others has always been difficult for me. But thinking of his orders and my false pride forced me to admit how often I had failed at one thing or another because I refused to ask someone for help or seek the counsel of others. Even God. Certainly, "pride does come before a fall."

"Look to the Lord and His strength," said the Psalmist. How easy it sounds but how difficult it is for many of us to do. God wants us to depend on Him, seek the help and counsel of others. If we don't, the likelihood of failure looms large. Our strength is limited, but He is not.

But there is something more to be learned here. When I come to the end of my strength and am unable to do what He has called me to do and ask others to help me, they share in my ministry. So, two things can happen: when I realize the blessings that can come from depending on others when they are willing and able to help me, they share His love by helping me. And, I can share my ministry with them!

Prayer: Thank you Lord for Your ways, Your Word, and Your wisdom which are gifts we do not deserve but desperately need. May we willingly share them with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Look to the Lord and His strength; continually seek Him. Psalm 105:4



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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Midwestern states with few virus rules have low unemployment**

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Five of the six states with the nation's lowest unemployment rates are in the Midwest, have Republican governors and have almost no restrictions intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The governors say their decisions not to impose harsher restrictions are paying off with fewer business closures and more hiring reflected in the strong jobless numbers. But economists say it's not so simple. Although businesses that are struggling during the pandemic can benefit when governors opt not to require masks or limit in-door gatherings, other factors may play an even bigger role in producing such low unemployment rates.

And those same rules that could initially help the states' economies also are blamed for their leading the nation in coronavirus infection rates, raising questions about whether their hands-off approach is sustainable. North Dakota and South Dakota have the most cases per capita in the U.S., and Nebraska and Iowa aren't far behind.

"If hospitalization and death rates increase, then you have a motivation by politicians to close the economy down. That would be very deadly and push unemployment rates back up," said Ernie Goss, an economist at Creighton University in Omaha.

For now, though, those Midwestern states have a lock atop the unemployment rankings, far below the national average rate for September of 7.9%. Nebraska leads the nation with a 3.5% unemployment rate, followed by South Dakota, Vermont, North Dakota, Iowa and Missouri.

Most of the Midwestern governors imposed some restrictions last spring, but they were among the first to ease them, arguing that they needed to balance efforts to slow the virus' spread with the need for a robust economy.

"I've got to believe that if you shut down harder, you're going to see a more severe impact to your industries and the longer you're shut down, the harder it's going to be for those industries to rebound," Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts told the Associated Press.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, who tested positive for COVID-19 last month, has touted a balanced approach to coping with the pandemic. And Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds urged residents not to let the virus dominate their lives.

In South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem said: "There's consequences to what we've seen happen in other states — that shutting down businesses, stopping people's way of life has some devastating impacts. We're taking a very balanced approach."

In contrast, Vermont Gov. Phil Scott, a Republican, has worked aggressively to tamp down the virus, including closing some businesses in the spring and imposing a mask mandate. Vermont now has one of the nation's lowest COVID-19 infection rates along with the third-lowest unemployment rate.

Like the Midwestern states, Vermont is largely rural with industries that weren't hurt as badly by the pandemic.

Economists say that's not a coincidence, noting that states dominated by agriculture and some kinds of manufacturing were able to operate closer to normal and managed to bounce back more quickly. That contrasts with states that rely on tourism, such as California, Nevada and Hawaii, which have the nation's highest unemployment rates.

"The economy of a rural state has a different structure, so more of the people work in industries that wouldn't really be disrupted by a need for social distancing like agriculture," said Eric Thompson, who leads the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Midwestern states already had ultra-low unemployment rates before the pandemic, and they benefitted early on from a lack of population density, with plenty of wide-open spaces and few major cities

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where it would be harder to avoid catching the virus. More recently, though, many of those rural areas have seen some of the nation's highest virus rates.

Even in industries like meatpacking that initially were devastated by workers catching COVID-19, the companies have managed to make changes that have allowed their operations to nearly return to normal.

Thompson said a lack of restrictions may have been most important in the spring. At the height of the shutdowns in April, Nebraska's unemployment rate peaked at 8.7%, which was slightly more than half the national rate of 14.7% at that time.

Nathan Kauffman, Omaha branch executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, said fewer businesses closed in these states because many of them are in what are considered essential industries.

Ricketts agreed that Nebraska's mix of industries played a significant role in helping the state's economy.

"The kinds of things that we're strong in are agriculture, manufacturing, finance and technology. You've just got industries that are not going to be as impacted by a pandemic," Ricketts said.

But even if business has remained better in these states, that doesn't mean they have been completely spared. Restaurants, hotels and other types of businesses are still struggling because people remain wary of resuming their normal shopping patterns, and those economic costs could rise amid spikes in virus rates.

Despite the low unemployment figures, all of the states now have fewer jobs than before the pandemic hit. Nationally, the economy has regained only about half of the 22 million jobs that were lost.

Still, many Midwestern business owners and leaders say they appreciate their governors' lighter touch.

In Rapid City, South Dakota, Black Hills Bagels never had to close because the wholesale side of its operation continued providing products to grocery stores, and its retail store turned to drive-thru and delivery options, owner Debra Jensen said. It even had trouble hiring the workers it needed this year because unemployment remained so low.

"I'm just happy that the state and the folks in South Dakota made the right decisions to make sure our economy didn't just bottom out," Jensen said.

Arik Spencer, president and CEO of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, said he doesn't think shutting down the economy is the right approach, but every state is trying to help the economy while managing the virus.

"We hope that with the thoughtful approach of decisionmakers here in North Dakota, we're poised to recover quickly. But if there was a silver bullet for recovery, every state in the country would be utilizing that right now," Spencer said.

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Associated Press writers Grant Schulte in Lincoln and Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont, contributed to this report.

## **Northern State officials: New stadium should benefit region**

By ELISA SAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — As construction of the Dacotah Bank Stadium moves forward, campus officials already see it as an enhancement not only for campus but for the entire region.

Northern State University President Tim Downs talked about those advantages during a tour last week with members of the media.

The stadium is part of a new regional sports complex under construction south of Northern's Barnett Center. The work includes a softball field and an addition to the south side of the Barnett Center.

The Barnett Center addition features offices for coaches as well as locker rooms, a kitchen and event space, which will be able to host as many as 350 people, the Aberdeen American News reported.

Amenities within the stadium start on the second floor with a concession area and bathrooms, which will be under the bleachers. Kody Schochenmaier from CO-OP Architecture said that's a concept intended to shelter game attendees from the weather.

The third level features a series of loge suites for Wolves Club members. They are above the regular seating, but are not enclosed.

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Premium suites, including a space for Downs and areas for premium donors, are on the fourth level, and the press box is on the fifth floor.

Schochenmaier said the design for the stadium came together after collecting ideas from other stadiums. Nine or 10 stadiums were toured, he said.

Estimated seating capacity at this time is about 4,500, with the lowest general admission seat sitting 14 feet above the field. Installation of the bleachers will start at the end the month.

As Schochenmaier pointed out various aspects of the stadium, the Barnett Center addition and the softball field, he also noted some enhancements that are on standby and could be added. Two include additional seating and a bridge that would connect the Barnett Center to the stadium. For now, he said, the stadium is being built without those features.

Justin Fraase, vice president of enrollment, communications and marketing, said it's too early to decide if the university will move forward with those extras. Prices have been locked in as part of the bid process, he said, and capital campaign fundraising is still ongoing.

The cost of the entire complex is expected to be \$33 million.

Downs said that if the bridge is built, it would be 16 1/2 feet above the ground, a level that would maintain access for emergency vehicles. That, he said, was part of an agreement made with the city. While the city agreed to vacate part of 15th Avenue Southeast between South State Street and South Herret Street, Downs said, a concrete surface remains in case emergency vehicles need access.

Fraase and Downs said new athletic recruits are looking at Northern and making commitments after seeing the new facilities. Downs said that's true not just for football, but for softball and soccer as well.

"It gives you a recruiting edge to have a facility like this on campus," he said, pointing to enrollment in other campus programs that have increased with the addition of new or revamped facilities like the Johnson Fine Arts Center and the Harvey C. Jewett IV Regional Science Education Center.

Downs said that in addition to Northern football games on Saturdays, he wants to see the stadium used for more — like special features between regional high school football teams on Fridays.

"I want to see high school teams playing here," he said, describing the "Friday Night Lights" feature as a possibility for two rival teams to compete.

Dacotah Bank Stadium could also be a venue for a marching band contest, a concert or a movie night, since videos can be played on the scoreboard, Downs said. And the event space in the Barnett Center has myriad potential uses.

"It's leveraging your assets so they can be used for the region," he said.

With each enhancement there's a discussion about other uses and purposes, Downs said. It's like the new soccer and practice fields to the northeast and how they are used for athletics and intramural sports on campus and by students at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Expected completion of the Barnett Center work is in July with the stadium to follow in August.

Completion of the complex is the final piece in a multi-phase plan to improve Northern. Most recently, those enhancements have been made through private donations to a \$55 million capital campaign.

Downs said the ongoing capital campaign has been successful because of the community and regional support of the plans.

"It's very unusual for a campus of our size to invest as much as quickly as we did," he said.

While Downs said additional campus improvements have been discussed, no new projects are planned once the complex is completed.

## South Dakota has 5th straight day of 1,000-plus virus cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Sunday reported a fifth straight day of more than 1,000 cases of the coronavirus, lifting the total number of positive tests to more than 45,000.

The update showed 1,332 new infections of the 2,638 people tested. Twelve deaths were reported in the last day, increasing the total fatalities due to complications from COVID-19 to 437. There are 421 people hospitalized, including 79 in intensive care units.



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The state has confirmed 45,437 cases since the start of the pandemic.

Health officials said there were 21,827 new infections in October, following 8,880 in September. The number of people being treated in medical facilities across the state doubled in October.

There were about 1,517 new cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks second in the country behind North Dakota for new cases per capita, according to researchers from Johns Hopkins University.

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

## Deadwood police: Woman killed herself on casino dance floor

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A 28-year-old woman found on the dance floor of a Deadwood casino Saturday died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Officers responded to a call of a shooting at The Buffalo Bodega Gaming Complex just after midnight Saturday. Medics attempted to revive the woman, but were unsuccessful. She was declared dead at the scene, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The victim's identity has not been released. The incident remains under investigation.

## British court rules against Johnny Depp in libel case

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British court ruled Monday against Johnny Depp in his libel case against the owner of the Sun tabloid newspaper, which labelled him a "wife beater."

Justice Andrew Nicol said that the defendants had proved that what they published was "substantially true" during a high-profile trial in London over the summer that included lurid — and irreconcilable — accounts from Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard in which accused the other of abuse. Depp's lawyers said they would appeal the decision.

"I have found that the great majority of alleged assaults of Ms. Heard by Mr. Depp have been proved to the civil standard," Nicol wrote in his ruling.

Depp sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that accused him of assaulting fellow actor Heard. For now, the ruling represents a big blow to Depp's reputation and to his finances that could seriously damage his lucrative movie career.

A lawyer for Depp, 57, described the decision as "perverse as it is bewildering."

"The judgment is so flawed that it would be ridiculous for Mr. Depp not to appeal this decision," Jenny Afia said in a statement.

An attorney for Heard, meanwhile, said the verdict was "not a surprise" for anyone who followed the trial.

The Sun called the decision a "stunning victory for press freedom" and said that it had stood up and campaigned for victims of domestic abuse for more than 20 years.

"Domestic abuse victims must never be silenced, and we thank the Judge for his careful consideration and thank Amber Heard for her courage in giving evidence to the court," a spokesperson for the tabloid said in a statement.

At the heart of the Sun's characterization of Depp as a "wife-beater" were allegations it printed that the actor had assaulted Heard 14 times in locations around the world, including a "three-day hostage situation" that Heard said took place in Australia while Depp was filming a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Heard, 34, said the abuse was fueled by Depp's drug and alcohol use and that he could turn into "the monster" when under the influence. She alleged that at various time between 2013 and 2016 he hit, slapped and shoved her, pulled her hair and threw bottles at her.

Depp acknowledged in court taking marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and magic mushrooms, and became addicted to opioid painkillers. But added: "I am certainly not a violent person, especially with women."



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The judge found that 12 episodes of domestic violence had occurred and dismissed charges made by Depp's legal team that Heard had "constructed a hoax."

"I do not accept this characterization of Ms. Heard," the judge wrote, adding that he accepted her evidence that the allegations she made against one of the world's most popular actors have "had a negative effect on her career as an actor and activist."

Depp is also suing Heard for \$50 million in Virginia over a Washington Post op-ed essay that she wrote about domestic violence. The essay talks about her experience being abused but does not name Depp. The trial is due to be held next year.

"Very soon, we will be presenting even more voluminous evidence in the U.S.," said Elaine Charlson Bredehoft, Heard's attorney in the U.S.

Afia, representing Depp, said that "we hope that in contrast to this case, the ongoing libel proceedings in America are equitable, with both parties providing full disclosure rather than one side strategically cherry picking what evidence can and cannot be relied upon."

Depp and Heard met on the set of 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in 2015. They separated the following year and divorced in 2017.

Heard chronicled acts of violence from early on in their relationship. Depp branded the allegations "sick" and a "hoax" and claimed Heard was the aggressor during their relationship. He said that Heard hit him, even severing the tip of his finger with a thrown vodka bottle during an altercation in Australia during filming of a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Heard insisted she was telling the truth and said she had spoken out reluctantly.

"What woman has ever benefited from being a victim of domestic violence?" she asked in court.

Lisa King, director of communications and external relations at the charity Refuge, which provides support for victims of domestic violence, expressed hope that the ruling sends "a very powerful message" that every single survivor of domestic abuse "should be listened to and should be heard."

Mark Stephens, a media lawyer at the law firm Howard Kennedy, called the decision "absolutely devastating" for Depp.

"Johnny Depp is only going to be able to rehabilitate himself if he accepts this judgment," he added.

Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

## Germany starts 'wave-breaker' shutdown as Europe locks down

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany became the latest European country to embark on a partial shutdown Monday as authorities across the continent scramble to flatten a rapid rise in coronavirus infections that threatens to overwhelm their health care systems.

In parts of Europe, the new restrictions — which vary in strictness — are prompting sometimes violent protests by people frustrated at once again having to forgo freedoms. And the prospect of a second month-long lockdown is causing discontent even in Britain's governing party, which is proposing the measure.

In Germany, restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas, gyms and other leisure facilities closed again Monday in a four-week "wave-breaker" shutdown that seeks to force daily new infections back down to manageable levels. Germans have been asked not to travel and hotels are barred from accommodating tourists.

At present, German officials say they can't trace the source of three-quarters of new coronavirus cases. Health Minister Jens Spahn, who himself caught the virus, says he doesn't know where he was infected.

Spahn tweeted Monday that the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care has tripled in Germany over the past two weeks, and "we must break this momentum, together and with determination."

"We want to end the measures in this strictness at the end of November," Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff, Helge Braun, told RBB Inforadio.

"This is also about enabling Christmas business for German companies, and Christmas celebrations with the family for all of us," he added. "The stricter the measures, the quicker they work, so we decided on

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relatively strict measures.”

The new restrictions are still milder than the ones Germany imposed in the first phase of the pandemic in March and April. This time around, schools, kindergartens, non-essential shops and hairdressers are staying open. Officials will review the situation after two weeks.

England is headed for a tougher lockdown starting on Thursday, with non-essential shops and hairdressers closing for a month along with gyms and pools, and people allowed to leave home for only a short list of reasons including exercise. Domestic and international travel is also discouraged.

The new English lockdown is supposed to end on Dec. 2, but minister Michael Gove told Sky News on Sunday that couldn't be guaranteed “with a virus this malignant, and with its capacity to move so quickly.”

The plan needs lawmakers' approval. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing resistance from his own Conservative Party — who worry about its economic impact — though its passage is virtually assured by backing from the opposition Labour Party.

Austria is also introducing new restrictions this week. Starting Tuesday and until the end of November, restaurants and bars are being closed — as in Germany and England, except for deliveries and takeout — and cultural, sports and leisure activities canceled. Residents will be asked to stay home from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., although they can go out to exercise or to work.

In Spain, lawmakers last week approved an extension until May 2021 of the country's state of emergency. The measure puts into place a national nightly curfew and allows regions to impose more localized restrictions, such as limiting movement outside city limits on weekends.

“These measures save lives,” Catalonia police chief Eduard Sallent said. “We are enforcing a measure that is meant to prevent deaths and the collapse of our health care system.”

Spain's curfew drew weekend protests in a dozen cities. Mostly young protesters set fire to vehicles and trash cans, blocked roads and threw objects at riot police.

Cabinet minister José Luis Escrivá told Antena 3 television Monday that “this kind of behavior is to be expected” as people grow weary of COVID-19 restrictions.

Countries including hard-hit Belgium, France, Poland and the Czech Republic already have implemented shutdowns of varying strictness.

While cases have been rising and are well beyond governments' comfort zones across the continent, data from the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control show wide variations in the number of new cases per 100,000 residents reported over the past 14 days, with Germany's figure of 205.9 as of Sunday less than half those of Austria and the U.K. The country currently worst hit, Belgium, has just over 1,700 new cases per 100,000 people.

Overall, Europe has seen more than 250,000 confirmed virus-related deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say all numbers understate the true toll of the pandemic due to missed cases, limited testing and other reasons.

Politicians across the continent have stressed that the success of new restrictions depends on the public getting behind them.

Announcing Austria's new measures, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz held out the prospect of a step-by-step reopening. But he said he was wary of making predictions for December “because we can't yet assess how strongly the population will support these measures and how strong the effect will be.”

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Associated Press writers around Europe contributed to this report.

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

## Campaign draws to a close with US facing a crossroads

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, WILL WEISSERT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden have one last chance

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to make their case to voters in critical battleground states on Monday, the final full day of a campaign that has laid bare their dramatically different visions for tackling the nation's pressing problems and for the office of the presidency itself.

The candidates are seeking to lead a nation at a crossroads, gripped by a historic pandemic that is raging anew in nearly every corner of the country and a reckoning over race. More than 93 million people have already voted and each campaign insists it has a pathway to victory, though Biden's options for picking up the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win are more plentiful. Trump is banking on a surge of enthusiasm from his most loyal supporters.

The Republican president's final day has him sprinting through five rallies, from North Carolina to Wisconsin. Biden, meanwhile, was devoting most of his time to Pennsylvania, where a win would leave Trump with an exceedingly narrow path. Biden was also dipping into Ohio, a show of confidence in a state where Trump won by 8 percentage points four years ago.

Heading into the closing 24 hours, Trump and Biden each painted the other as unfit for office and described the next four years in near apocalyptic terms if the other were to win.

"The Biden plan will turn America into a prison state locking you down while letting the far-left rioters roam free to loot and burn," Trump thundered Sunday at a rally in Iowa, one of the five he held in battleground states.

Biden said America was on the verge of putting "an end to a presidency that's fanned the flames of hate."

"When America is heard, I believe the message is going to be clear: It's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home," Biden said in Philadelphia, the biggest city in a state that could decide the presidency. "We're done with the chaos, the tweets, the anger, the hate."

As the candidates close out the campaign, the pandemic, which has killed more than 231,000 people in the United States and caused nearly 20 million to lose jobs, reached a new peak in infection rates, threatening yet another blow to lives and livelihoods of voters.

The election caps an extraordinary year that began with Trump's impeachment, the near collapse of Biden's candidacy during the crowded Democratic primary and then was fully reshaped by the coronavirus outbreak.

A record number of votes have already been cast, through early voting or mail-in ballots, which could lead to delays in their tabulation. Trump has spent months claiming without evidence that the votes would be ripe for fraud while refusing to guarantee that he would honor the election result.

In the starkest terms yet, Trump on Sunday threatened litigation to stop the tabulation of ballots arriving after Election Day. As soon as polls closed in battlegrounds such as Pennsylvania, Trump said, "we're going in with our lawyers."

It was unclear precisely what Trump meant. There is already an appeal pending at the Supreme Court over the counting of absentee ballots in Pennsylvania that are received in the mail in the three days after the election.

The state's top court ordered the extension and the Supreme Court refused to block it, though conservative justices expressed interest in taking up the propriety of the three added days after the election. Those ballots are being kept separate in case the litigation goes forward. The issue could assume enormous importance if the late-arriving ballots could tip the outcome.

Under the shadow of possible legal battles, Pennsylvania loomed as most important battleground on the map.

For Biden, who lives in neighboring Delaware, Pennsylvania has long been the focus of his campaign, a bulwark to block Trump from securing the electoral votes needed for reelection. Both he and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, and their spouses will crisscross the state on Monday.

But Biden's other travel telegraphed his campaign's hope to deliver a knockout blow to Trump that would make any Pennsylvania legal challenges essentially irrelevant.

Biden added a late stop to Ohio, a state where Trump once had a sizable lead and can't win without. That came on the heels of the ticket's pushes into other formerly reliable Trump strongholds like Iowa and

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Texas, as well as Georgia, where the Democrats' most popular surrogate, former President Barack Obama, was set to campaign Monday.

But even as Biden enjoyed strong poll numbers, the move to expand the map revived anxiety among Democrats scarred by Trump's 2016 upset over Hillary Clinton, whose forays into red states may have contributed to losing longtime party strongholds such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Facing a shortage of campaign cash, Trump has been unable to compete with Biden over the airwaves and has relied on rallies to fire up his base and generate media coverage.

The rallies, arguably the most dominant political force of the last five years, could draw to a close Monday with stops in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and two in Michigan. The last will be in Grand Rapids, the same city where Trump held his finale four years ago.

Trump is focusing his last rounds of stops only on states he won four years ago, playing defense in a campaign that has become a referendum on his handling of the pandemic. Both parties say the election holds outsized importance given the confluence of challenges facing the country.

Adam Jentleson, a progressive strategist and former top aide to ex-Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, said Election Day lives up to the over-used political billing of being the most important of the country's collective lifetime because it "is about restoring the basic structure of a functioning, multiracial democracy that can be responsive to the will of its people, which is something that's gotten lost over the past couple of decades."

Republican strategist Alice Stewart said the pandemic, the economy and race relations in America have all coincided in unprecedented ways, but that Election Day's outcome won't bring an immediate fix no matter what happens.

"If 2020 is the most consequential election of our lifetime, heaven help us for 2024," Stewart said. "I'm calling Noah and will start building the ark."

Lemire and Weissert reported from Washington. Miller reported from Charlotte. Associated Press writers Kat Stafford in Detroit and Bill Barrow in Atlanta.

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/>.

## Election 2020 Today: Trump, Biden make final pleas to voters

By The Associated Press

Here's what's happening Monday in Election 2020, one day until Election Day:

**ON THE TRAIL:** President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden have one last chance to make their case to voters in critical battleground states on Monday, the final full day of a campaign that has laid bare their dramatically different visions for tackling the nation's pressing problems and for the office of the presidency itself. The Republican president's final day has him sprinting through five rallies, from North Carolina to Wisconsin. Biden, meanwhile, is devoting most of his time to Pennsylvania, where a win would leave Trump with an exceedingly narrow path to 270 Electoral College votes.

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

**TODAY'S TOP STORIES:**

**ELECTION DAY DELAY:** We may not know who won the presidential election on Tuesday night. And if so, it does not necessarily mean anything is broken, fraudulent, corrupted or wrong. Trump has repeatedly suggested a slower-than-typical result is a sign of trouble. It's unclear what the president thinks is a long period. But it's standard practice to continue tabulating votes after Election Day.

**TRUMP'S 2ND TERM?:** Expect to see a lot more of the same if Trump wins a second term. Trump has consistently pointed to tax cuts and regulatory relief as key successes of his first four years. He has repeatedly pushed for the end of the Obama-era health law but hasn't delivered a plan to replace it. He has spent his last year in office defending his response to the coronavirus pandemic while fighting with



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scientists and medical experts about vaccines and more.

**BIDEN'S NEW PATH:** Biden is promising to take the country on a very different path from what it has seen over the past four years under Trump, on issues ranging from the coronavirus and health care to the environment, education and more. The Democratic presidential nominee is promising to reverse Trump policy moves on things such as withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement while expanding the Affordable Care Act.

**FIRING FAUCI?:** Trump is suggesting that he will fire Dr. Anthony Fauci after Tuesday's election, as his rift with the nation's top infectious disease expert widens while the nation sees its most alarming outbreak of the coronavirus since the spring. "Don't tell anybody, but let me wait until a little bit after the election," Trump replied to thousands of supporters early Monday.

**QUOTABLE:**

"Lawsuits that are filed in the middle of an election to disrupt the election should be promptly denied."  
— Susan Hays, an attorney for the Harris County Clerk's Office in Texas, where a Republican-led petition to toss nearly 127,000 ballots cast at drive-thru voting places in the Houston area will be heard during an emergency hearing in federal court on Monday.

**ICYMI:**

Bruised and haunted, US holds tight as 2020 campaigns close

Road to 270: Biden has options, Trump walks narrow path

Biden works to push Black turnout in campaign's final days

## 2020 Watch: Will loser of the election accept the result?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into the final week of the 2020 campaign:

Days to general election: 1

### THE NARRATIVE

It's almost over. By this time next week, and hopefully much sooner, we'll likely know who will occupy the Oval Office for the next four years.

The ghosts of 2016 are keeping Democrats on edge, but they are hopeful that voters will make President Donald Trump the first incumbent to lose reelection since George H.W. Bush in 1992. Democrat Joe Biden is running significantly ahead of where Hillary Clinton was in most polls the day before the election.

Some Republicans are pointing to a shift on the ground in Florida in particular that portends good news for Trump. The problem for Republicans is that Trump must win Florida — and several more battleground states — if he's going to have any chance to keep his job.

Can Trump pull an inside straight again? Anxious Democrats will be the first to tell you it's possible. But veteran Republican strategists will also tell you it isn't likely. There are fewer undecided voters this time, and no strong third-party candidates to siphon votes.

Democrats had an advantage in early voting, but Trump's vaunted ground game is well-positioned to turn out its voters en masse on Tuesday.

What makes this election different from those in the past are the swirling questions about voter intimidation, lawsuits and counting delays related to the coronavirus pandemic. Trump has already indicated he may reject the result of the election if he loses.

Buckle up. This could get messy.

### THE BIG QUESTIONS

Will the loser of this election accept the result?

The stage is set for a chaotic finish no matter what the final numbers say.



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Trump has sought to undermine the election results for several months by raising debunked conspiracy theories about election fraud. He has repeatedly refused to say whether he would agree to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses.

Biden has promised to accept the results no matter what, but that doesn't mean that Democrats won't end up in an extended court battle in certain states if things don't go their way — particularly if there are any Election Day disruptions or court rulings that throw out a significant numbers of mail ballots.

Never before in modern U.S. history has there been such uncertainty looming over basic rules of democracy on the eve of an election.

What is the "red mirage" scenario?

Don't be fooled by the early numbers. Because of the way ballots will be counted by different states, the final vote tally could look dramatically different from the early returns — especially if Democrats look to be struggling.

The so-called red mirage scenario would show Trump having a good night based on the votes cast in person on Tuesday. But pivotal states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin aren't expected to count all their mail ballots, the preferred voting method by many Democrats, until after in-person votes are counted.

That raises the likelihood that Republicans will look to be having a strong showing earlier in the night than they will once all the votes are in.

Trump has falsely raised just this scenario as an example of voter fraud, but it's actually a completely legitimate function of the way different states process ballots. And because of complications related to the pandemic, several states, including Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Minnesota, will accept mail ballots received several days after polls close.

Will fewer people vote on Election Day than voted early?

Election Day turnout remains a mystery. As of Sunday afternoon, more than 93 million Americans had already voted. That's two-thirds of all ballots cast in the 2016 election. Tens of millions more votes are expected on Tuesday, but it's hard to imagine that Election Day turnout will exceed the early vote count.

Never before have more than 140 million Americans voted in a single presidential election.

Both sides acknowledge that Trump will have an advantage among voters who cast ballots on Tuesday because Democrats were more likely to vote by mail. Presumably, the more people who show up on Election Day, the better the final outcome will be for the Republican president.

Democrats are particularly concerned about turning out their infrequent voters — especially young people, Blacks and Latinos — who historically vote Democrat but aren't necessarily excited to show up for Biden.

Republicans rightly claim an advantage on the ground in several states. Even before Trump's first election, the GOP began investing heavily in field offices and staff across the country to build relationships in key communities designed to turn out hard-to-reach voters when it matters most.

Democrats have not made the same investment, and more than that, they've largely avoided the door-to-door get-out-the vote operations of years past, relying on texts, phone calls or emails to communicate with their supporters.

Will Election Day be peaceful?

We're coming to you from downtown Washington, where most local businesses have covered their first-floor windows with plywood. No, there's not a hurricane on the way.

Washington's business owners are bracing for the possibility of election-related violence. And given the rioting that has already accompanied civil unrest in several states in recent months, it's not hard to imagine protests turning violent well beyond Washington this week.

At the same time, there are real questions about the possibility of voter intimidation at the ballot box on Tuesday.

Tensions are high on both sides, but most eyes will be on Republican poll watchers given the party's history of bad behavior and Trump's repeated calls for his die-hard supporters to be on the lookout for voting fraud.

This is the first election in decades that Republicans have been allowed to install official poll watchers. The GOP was banned from the practice by federal courts that found repeated evidence in past elections

of Republicans intimidating or trying to exclude minority voters in the name of preventing fraud. We're all hoping for a peaceful Election Day, but the conditions are ripe for disorder.

## THE FINAL THOUGHT

This is probably our last dispatch for a while. We want to thank you for following along over this past year. We've tried our best to take you behind the curtain to see the 2020 presidential contest from an insider's perspective.

And while we'll all need a break once this election is settled, recent history suggests that the jockeying for the next presidential election will begin almost immediately; 2024 Watch may be just around the corner.

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/>.

## Trump threatens to fire Fauci in rift with disease expert

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

OPA-LOCKA, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting that he will fire Dr. Anthony Fauci after Tuesday's election, as his rift with the nation's top infectious disease expert widens while the nation sees its most alarming outbreak of the coronavirus since the spring.

Speaking at a campaign rally in Opa-locka, Florida, Trump expressed frustration that the surging cases of the virus that has killed more than 231,000 people in the United States this year remains prominent in the news, sparking chants of "Fire Fauci" from his supporters.

"Don't tell anybody but let me wait until a little bit after the election," Trump replied to thousands of supporters early Monday, adding he appreciated their "advice."

Trump's comments on Fauci less than 48 hours before polls close all but assure that his handling of the pandemic will remain front and center heading into Election Day.

It's the most direct Trump has been in suggesting he was serious about trying to remove Fauci from his position. He has previously expressed that he was concerned about the political blowback of removing the popular and respected doctor before Election Day.

Trump's comments come after Fauci leveled his sharpest criticism yet of the White House's response to the coronavirus and Trump's public assertion that the nation is "rounding the turn" on the virus.

Fauci has grown outspoken that Trump has ignored his advice for containing the virus, saying he hasn't spoken with Trump in more than a month. He has raised alarm that the nation was heading for a challenging winter if more isn't done soon to slow the spread of the disease.

In an interview with The Washington Post this weekend, Fauci cautioned that the U.S. will have to deal with "a whole lot of hurt" in the weeks ahead due to surging coronavirus cases.

Fauci said the U.S. "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" to stem rising cases as more people gather indoors during the colder fall and winter months. He says the U.S. will need to make an "abrupt change" in public health precautions.

Fauci added that he believed Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden "is taking it seriously from a public health perspective," while Trump is "looking at it from a different perspective." Fauci, who's on the White House coronavirus task force, said that perspective emphasizes "the economy and reopening the country."

In response, White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump always puts people's well-being first and Deere charges that Fauci has decided "to play politics" right before Tuesday's election. Deere said Fauci "has a duty to express concerns or push for a change in strategy" but instead is "choosing to criticize the president in the media and make his political leanings known."

Trump in recent days has stepped up his attacks on Biden for pledging to heed the advice of scientists in responding to the pandemic. Trump has claimed Biden would "lock down" the nation once again. Biden has promised to heed the warnings of Fauci and other medical professionals but has not endorsed another

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national lockdown.

Trump has recently relied on the advice of Stanford doctor Scott Atlas, who has no prior background in infectious diseases or public health, as his lead science adviser on the pandemic. Atlas has been a public skeptic about mask wearing and other measures widely accepted by the scientific community to slow the spread of the virus.

Other members of the White House coronavirus task force have grown increasingly vocal about what they see as a dangerous fall spike in the virus.

Trump's aggressive approach to Fauci carries some risks this close to Election Day,

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll in September showed 68% of Americans have a great deal or a fair amount of trust in Fauci to provide reliable information on the coronavirus. That compares with 52% of Americans who trusted Biden to do that and just 40% for Trump.

## Police on curfew patrol as Spain fights nightlife infections

By EMILIO MORENATTI, RENATA BRITO and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — At 10:00 p.m. each night, Barcelona's professional crime fighters become wet blankets in uniforms.

Police officers fan out across the coastal city in northeastern Spain to break up clandestine parties and to clear the streets of young adults drinking alcohol, enforcing a nationwide curfew the Spanish government ordered to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

Associated Press journalists accompanied officers from the Mossos d'Esquadra, the police force for Spain's Catalonia region, on curfew patrol. Compared to the killings, bar brawls or domestic violence calls the officers are used to handling, busting people for being out after hours is easy work.

Yet for European nations battling the resurgence of COVID-19, the assignment is critical.

"These measures save lives," Catalonia police chief Eduard Sallent said. "We are enforcing a measure that is meant to prevent deaths and the collapse of our health care system."

Without tourists around to clog Barcelona's Ciutat Vella, the old town area known for its buzzy late-night scene, patrol cars weaved through labyrinth-like alleys in search of scofflaws with bottles of booze in hand. Officers looked past homeless people and the occasional dog walkers.

They focused on spotting youths who had sneaked out to share a bottle, since the city's bars and nightclubs closed completely due to the virus, while also watching for anyone who might use the unusually empty streets as an opportunity to loot stores.

Uniformed officers, with some help from plainclothes agents, checked the identities of the people they found out and about and told them to go home. Most obeyed promptly.

Some decided to make a run for it. Officers chased them down and searched them. Young men who resisted were pushed to the ground and briefly handcuffed. One inebriated woman screamed about her rights being violated. Those under 18 were taken to the police station to be retrieved by parents.

Spanish officials cited the Spanish youth custom of gathering on park benches to drink cheap liquor mixed with soft drinks — a practice called "botellón," Spanish for "big bottle" — as a potential source of infections when Spain first emerged from its strict spring home confinement.

Some of the outdoor get-togethers can reach the level of a "macrobotellón" — mega-big bottle — and attract hundreds of participants. With face masks off and social distance reduced to inches, the parties are easy targets for the virus.

Catalonia's regional interior minister, Miquel Sàmper said declaring a curfew across Spain on Oct. 25 was unavoidable after some groups ignored calls to keep personal contacts and opportunities for exposure to a minimum.

"The prohibiting of night-time movement has one goal," Sàmper said. "For weeks, we have said that no one should go out at night, or meet with several people, or consume alcohol at these parties called 'botellón.' But it is obvious from images we have all seen that we have not been successful."

Over 7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 250,000 virus-related deaths have been reported

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across Europe since the start of the pandemic. In recent days, European nations from Britain to Italy have reinstated restrictions ranging from reduced business hours and curfews to partial or near-total lockdowns to control the surge of infections sweeping the continent.

The conflict between reining in personal desires for the greater public good or giving in to individual pleasure is at the heart of Europe's renewed struggle against the virus.

Spain isn't the only place where hedonistic tendencies at night are being blamed. A big spike in cases in the northern Greek region of Serres was attributed to a party held to welcome first-year university students.

Residents in Marseille, France, alerted police to music from a nightclub that should have been empty due to virus restrictions but instead kept the party going.

On Saturday, police in London discovered a rave attended by 1,000 people. British police warned that properties rented on Airbnb and other short-term services were being used as pop-up party venues.

In August, police in Scotland broke up a party attended by more than 300 people at a mansion near Edinburgh. The owners said on Facebook that the young man who booked the house had seemed "very pleasant" and they were shocked to be told by a neighbor that "there was a huge rave and police were in attendance."

Dozens of students have been fined for organizing illegal gatherings, including four undergraduates in the central England city of Nottingham who received the maximum 10,000 pound (\$13,000) penalty after police broke up a house party.

"The very last thing we want to be doing as police officers is to be issuing these fines, but we have a responsibility to enforce the law and to keep people safe," Nottinghamshire Police Assistant Chief Constable Kate Meynell said.

In Spain, most of the enforcement effort has involving nudging stragglers indoors after curfew. But there have been some extravagant exceptions.

Police raided a brothel in the autonomous community of La Rioja four times in eight days last month for violating health codes designed to control infections. The owner could be fined nearly 100,000 euros (\$116,000).

In Madrid, police stopped the filming of a 50-person orgy. They said a pornographer arranged the event by making an open casting call with a pamphlet titled "Public Health Crime."

The weekend before Spain's curfew took effect, police in Madrid also busted over 300 parties that violated a prohibition on get-togethers of more than six people. Even with the curfew in place, police broke up over 100 such gatherings in apartments and 22 "botellones" on Friday night alone.

Madrid officials say 30% of the country's new confirmed infections are in people ages 15-29 and that 80% of all known infections happen in groups of family members or friends.

Madrid's regional vice president, Ignacio Aguado, pleaded with young people to consider the consequences of their good times.

"The party you go to today can become the funeral of your father or grandfather in seven days or less," he said.

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Jill Lawless contributed from London.

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## Rescuers weep with joy as Turkey pulls 2 girls from rubble

By MEHMET GUZEL and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

IZMIR, Turkey (AP) — In scenes that captured Turkey's emotional roller-coaster after a deadly earthquake, rescue workers dug two girls out alive Monday from the rubble of collapsed apartment buildings three days after the region was jolted by quake that killed scores of people.

Onlookers applauded in joy and wept with relief as ambulances carrying the girls rushed to the hospital



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immediately after their rescues in the hard-hit city of Izmir.

The overall death toll in Friday's quake reached 87 on Monday after teams found more bodies amid toppled buildings in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city.

Close to 1,000 people were injured, mostly in Turkey, by the quake that was centered in the Aegean Sea northeast of the Greek island of Samos. The death toll included two teenagers on Samos and at least 19 other people on the island were injured.

There was some debate over the quake's magnitude. The U.S. Geological Survey rated it 7.0, while Istanbul's Kandilli Institute put it at 6.9 and Turkey's emergency management agency said it measured 6.6.

Rescue workers clapped in unison Monday as 14-year-old Idil Sirin was removed from the rubble, after being trapped for 58 hours. Her 8-year-old sister, Ipek, did not survive, NTV television reported.

Seven hours later, rescuers working on another toppled building extricated 3-year-old Elif Perincek, whose mother and two sisters had been rescued two days earlier. The child spent 65 hours in the wreckage of her apartment and became the 106th person to be rescued alive, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Muammer Celik of the Istanbul fire department's search-and-rescue team told NTV television that he thought Elif was dead when he reached her inside the wreckage.

"There was dust on her face, her face was white," he said. "When I cleaned the dust from her face, she opened her eyes. I was astonished."

Celik said: "it was a miracle, it was a true miracle."

The girl would not let go of his hand throughout the rescue operation, Celik said, adding: "I am now her big brother."

The girl was pictured holding Celik's thumb while being carried on a stretcher into a tent where she was treated before being taken to the hospital. Rescuers were seen shedding tears of joy and hugging each other.

Rescue workers scrambling to find more survivors used listening devices to detect any signs of life.

"Can anyone hear me?" a team leader shouted, asking possible survivors to bang against surfaces three times if they could.

Officials said 220 quake survivors were still hospitalized and four of them were in serious condition.

The quake also triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district of Izmir, drowning one elderly woman. The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Hundreds of aftershocks followed.

Turkey has a mix of older buildings and cheap or illegal construction, which can lead to serious damage and deaths when earthquakes hit. Regulations have been tightened in light of earthquakes to strengthen or demolish older buildings and urban renewal is underway in Turkish cities, but it is not happening fast enough.

Turkey sits on top of fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. In 1999, two powerful quakes killed some 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey. Earthquakes are frequent in Greece as well.

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Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

## Snowden and his wife seek to be Russian-US dual nationals

MOSCOW (AP) — Former U.S. security contractor Edward Snowden said Monday that he and his wife intend to apply for Russian citizenship without renouncing their U.S. citizenship.

Snowden, a former contractor with the U.S. National Security Agency, has been living in Russia since 2013 to escape prosecution in the U.S. after leaking classified documents detailing government surveillance programs. He was granted permanent residency last month, his Russian lawyer said.

Snowden's wife Lindsay Mills, an American who has been living with him in Russia, announced last week that the couple are expecting a child. According to Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, the child, a boy, will be born in December and will have Russian citizenship.

"After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I have no desire to be separated from our son.



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That's why, in this era of pandemics and closed borders, we're applying for dual U.S.-Russian citizenship," Snowden said in a tweet Monday.

Kucherena told the Interfax news agency that the process of preparing the necessary paperwork for getting Snowden a Russian passport will start soon.

He will be able to get a Russian passport without renouncing his U.S. nationality after Russia earlier this year relaxed its strict citizenship laws. Previously the law required foreigners to renounce other nationalities in order to get Russian citizenship.

Snowden added in another tweet that the couple plans to be "raising our son with all the values of the America we love — including the freedom to speak his mind" and that he looked forward to the day he can return to the U.S., "so the whole family can be reunited."

Snowden, who has kept a low profile in Russia and occasionally criticized Russian government policies on social media, said last year that he was willing to return to the U.S. if he's guaranteed a fair trial.

## Germany launches 4-week partial shutdown to curb virus

BERLIN (AP) — A four-week partial shutdown has started in Germany, with restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas and other leisure facilities closing down until the end of the month in a drive to flatten a rapid rise in coronavirus infections.

The restrictions that took effect Monday are milder than the ones Germany imposed in the first phase of the pandemic in March and April. This time around, schools, kindergartens, non-essential shops and hairdressers are to remain open.

But leading officials decided last week that a "lockdown light" was necessary in light of a sharp rise in cases that has prompted many other European countries to impose more or less drastic restrictions.

On Saturday, the national disease control center reported the highest number of infections in one day -- 19,059 -- since the pandemic began. Figures at the beginning of the week tend to be lower, and the center reported 12,097 cases Monday. But that compared with 8,685 a week earlier, underlining the upward trend.

Germany has reported over 100 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past week. That is fewer than in many other European countries, but far above the 50 mark that officials set earlier this year as an alarm signal that requires action by local authorities.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and state governors are to review the situation after two weeks and discuss whether the measures need to be adjusted.

"The aim is to get back under this level of 50 at which health offices are in a position to trace contacts," Merkel's chief of staff, Helge Braun, told RBB Inforadio.

Merkel said last week that authorities are currently unable to trace the source of three-quarters of infections.

The restrictions taking effect Monday allow groups of at most 10 people, from a maximum two households, in public. Germans have been asked to refrain from making non-essential journeys and hotels are barred from accommodating people on tourist trips.

Asked whether the restrictions might last beyond November, Braun replied: "Our declared aim is that we want to end the measures in this strictness at the end of November."

"This is also about enabling Christmas business for German companies, and Christmas celebrations with the family for all of us," he added. "I consider that important ... the stricter the measures, the quicker they work, so we decided on relatively strict measures."

## Legal armies ready if cloudy election outcome heads to court

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Signature matches. Late-arriving absentee votes. Drop boxes. Secrecy envelopes. Democratic and Republican lawyers already have gone to court over these issues in the run-up to Tuesday's election. But the legal fights could take on new urgency, not to mention added vitriol, if a narrow

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margin in a battleground state is the difference between another four years for President Donald Trump or a Joe Biden administration.

Both sides say they're ready, with thousands of lawyers on standby to march into court to make sure ballots get counted, or excluded.

Since the 2000 presidential election, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court, both parties have enlisted legal teams to prepare for the unlikely event that voting wouldn't settle the contest. But this year, there is a near presumption that legal fights will ensue and that only a definitive outcome is likely to forestall them.

The candidates and parties have enlisted prominent lawyers with ties to Democratic and Republican administrations. A Pennsylvania case at the Supreme Court pits Donald Verrilli, who was President Barack Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, against John Gore, a onetime high-ranking Trump Justice Department official.

It's impossible to know where, or even if, a problem affecting the ultimate result will arise. But existing lawsuits in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Minnesota and Nevada offer some hint of the states most likely to be ground zero in a post-election battle and the kinds of issues that could tie the outcome in knots.

Roughly 300 lawsuits already have been filed over the election in dozens of states across the country, many involving changes to normal procedures because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. and sickened more than 9 million.

Most of the potential legal challenges are likely to stem from the huge increase in absentee balloting brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. In Pennsylvania, elections officials won't start processing those ballots until Election Day, and some counties have said they won't begin counting those votes until the following day. Mailed ballots that don't come inside a secrecy envelope have to be discarded, under a state Supreme Court ruling.

"I still can't figure how counting and verifying absentee ballots is going to go in some of the battleground states like Pennsylvania," said Ohio State University law professor Edward Foley, an election law expert.

The deadline for receiving and counting absentee ballots is Friday, an extension ordered by the Pennsylvania's top court. The Supreme Court left that order in place in response to a Republican effort to block it. But several conservative justices indicated they'd be open to taking the issue up after the election, especially if those late-arriving ballots could mean the difference in the state.

Trump, though, was not happy the extension was left in place, even though Pennsylvania will keep those ballots separate from the rest in case of renewed court interest.

"This is a horrible thing that the United States Supreme Court has done to our country," Trump said in Pennsylvania Saturday.

On Sunday, he said that as soon as the polls close, "We're going in with our lawyers."

Like Pennsylvania, North Carolina also has seen a court fight between Democrats who support extending the deadline for absentee ballots and Republicans who oppose it. The issue is a six-day extension approved by a state court — beyond the three extra days after Election Day that the Republican-controlled legislature agreed to in response to the pandemic.

The justices last week allowed the extra days to remain in effect, over a dissent by three conservatives on the court.

In Minnesota, late-arriving ballots also will be segregated from the rest of the vote because of ongoing legal proceedings, under a federal appeals court order.

Republican lawsuits have challenged local decisions that could take on national significance in a close election.

In Nevada, Trump's campaign and state Republicans went to court to try to stop the counting of Las Vegas-area mail-in ballots. Republicans say observers aren't allowed close enough to workers and machines at the busy vote-counting center in suburban Las Vegas to challenge signatures in the state's biggest and most Democratic-leaning county.

Jesse Binnall, an attorney for the Republican Party and Trump campaign, told a judge last week that the

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counting process observed in Las Vegas prevents what he called a "meaningful opportunity" to challenge the validity of mailed ballots.

In Texas, Republicans are asking state and federal courts to order election officials in the Houston area not to count ballots dropped off at drive-in locations. The Texas Supreme Court on Sunday denied the GOP's plea. A federal judge is holding a hearing on Monday.

The scale and scope of legal action related to the presidential election has never been seen before. Trump has suggested the outcome could well be decided in court. The closer the contest, the more likely his prediction proves true.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's errant final pitches on virus, energy

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Making final arguments before Tuesday's election, President Donald Trump asserted the U.S. was shaking off a coronavirus pandemic that is only getting worse, falsely claimed Democrat Joe Biden would lock down the country for years and baselessly alleged that the COVID-19 death count is being inflated by doctors.

His weekend comments capped the 2020 campaign's final week in which the actual crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and a manufactured crisis over voting fraud featured heavily.

Meanwhile, Biden went astray on trade as he assailed the president's record on China.

A look:

### LOCKDOWNS

TRUMP: "Biden wants to LOCKDOWN our Country, maybe for years. Crazy!" — tweet Sunday.

TRUMP: "Biden is all about lockdowns. They want to lock it down ... for a couple years, and let it go away." — Michigan rally Sunday.

THE FACTS: To be clear, Biden isn't promising to push wide-scale stay-at-home orders to stem the coronavirus if elected, and most certainly not "for a couple years," which is beyond when most scientists think a vaccine could become widely available.

Biden has publicly said he would shut the nation's economy only if scientists and public health advisers recommended he do so to stem the COVID-19 threat. The former vice president has repeatedly criticized Trump for disregarding scientists on the pandemic response, such as his shunning of masks, but has said repeatedly that no one knows what January would look like.

Biden told an ABC interviewer in August that he "will be prepared to do whatever it takes to save lives" when he was asked if he would be willing to shut the country again.

"So if the scientists say shut it down?" asked ABC's David Muir.

"I would shut it down," Biden responded. "I would listen to the scientists."

### ENERGY

TRUMP: "How do you like the \$2 gasoline? You'll have it for a long time if you elect Trump." — Michigan rally Sunday.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrongly taking credit for lower gas prices that were the byproduct of a pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 Americans.

Gasoline prices didn't fall because of the Trump administration. They plunged because of the coronavirus forcing people to abandon their offices, schools, business trips and vacations.

As more people worked from home, they needed to fill up their cars less frequently. Airlines didn't need to burn through as much fuel. Here's the statement from the U.S. Energy Information Administration: "Reduced economic activity related to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused changes in energy demand and supply patterns in 2020." World demand for oil has fallen by 8 million barrels a day, according to that agency's estimates.

Underscoring the connection to the pandemic shutdown, U.S. gas prices were at their lowest in April when people were staying home most. Gas prices have mostly risen since then, according to the informa-

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tion agency.

## VIRUS

TRUMP: "You can have the vaccine, but without it, we're rounding the corner." — Iowa rally Sunday.

THE FACTS: No, the coronavirus isn't going away, and Trump is contradicted by his own top health experts. New cases are on the rise toward their summer peak. Deaths have also been increasing.

The United States is averaging about 76,000 new confirmed cases a day, a rate that is up 43% over the past three weeks and the highest since the pandemic began. The number of confirmed coronavirus deaths in the U.S. is now over 230,000, the most in the world. It is averaging just over 800 coronavirus deaths a day, up 14% over the past two weeks.

Rebutting Trump, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases expert, says the U.S. will grapple with "a whole lot of hurt" in the weeks ahead due to surging coronavirus cases. He told The Washington Post the U.S. "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" to stem cases as more people gather indoors during the colder fall and winter months.

He said the country could surpass 100,000 new coronavirus cases a day and predicted rising deaths in the coming weeks.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former head of the Food and Drug Administration under Trump, agreed Sunday that "things are getting worse."

"I think as we get into the next two or three weeks, it will be unmistakable what's happening around the country, and we're going to have to start taking tough steps," Gottlieb told CBS' "Face the Nation." "I think December is probably going to be our toughest month."

TRUMP: "You know, our doctors get more money if somebody dies from COVID. You know that, right? I mean, our doctors are very smart people. So what they do is they say, 'I'm sorry, but, you know, everybody dies of COVID.'" — rally Friday in Waterford Township, Michigan.

THE FACTS: No, the virus death count has not been overstated because of doctors lying to get more money. No evidence has emerged of such systemic fraud.

Over 230,000 deaths from COVID-19 have been confirmed. The true number is almost certainly higher by a considerable margin.

As of Oct. 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counted 299,000 more U.S. deaths than would be expected in a normal year. Some of those deaths are sure to have been from COVID-19 — how many cannot be known.

It's true that hospitals may get higher reimbursement from the government to treat COVID-19 patients. Hospitals were given a 20% add-on for Medicare patients who test positive for the virus to cover the additional costs of treating the disease, such as buying supplies. The higher reimbursements are based on a COVID-19 diagnosis, not on the cause of death as Trump stated.

The Healthcare Financial Management Association, which works with hospitals on billing matters, says providers must support COVID-19 billing with test results or a physician's statement. The organization says hospitals expect to be audited for this billing and know that Medicare cheaters may have to pay back three times what they overcharged or even lose access to Medicaid patients.

Susan R. Bailey, president of the American Medical Association, said Trump's allegation of COVID-19 overcounting, which he has made several times, "is a malicious, outrageous, and completely misguided charge."

TRUMP: "In California, you have a special mask. You cannot under any circumstances take it off. You have to eat through the mask." — Arizona rally on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Those statements are false.

California residents are not required to wear "special" masks. Nor are they required to wear them all the time and "eat through the mask."

Gov. Gavin Newsom's statewide mask order allows Californians to wear basic coverings such as home-



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made ones and people are not required to wear them when at home, outdoors more than 6 feet from others or when eating and drinking.

His office this month did tweet out a graphic advising people to “keep your mask on in between bites” when going out to eat at restaurants. That was mocked because Californians were also advised to minimize the amount of times they touch their masks. Newsom told reporters that one of his staffers had sent out the tweet, which the governor said was intended to indicate that if people start to read a book at the table, they may want to put their mask back on.

**TRUMP:** “We have a spike in cases ... And you know why we have so many cases? Because we test more.” — Michigan rally Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** No, increased testing does not fully account for the rise in recorded cases, and Trump is contradicted by his own top health officials. People are also infecting each other more than before as distancing rules recede, some shun masks and community spread picks up.

Adm. Brett Giroir, the Health and Human Services Department official overseeing the nation’s coronavirus testing efforts, stressed anew that the increases can’t be explained by just additional testing.

“We do believe and the data show that cases are going up,” Giroir told NBC’s “Today” show on Wednesday. “Yes, we’re getting more cases identified, but the cases are actually going up. And we know that, too, because hospitalizations are going up.”

More testing actually does not mean more infections at all; people are getting sick regardless of whether their illness is recorded. More testing can help prevent the disease’s spread by letting people know COVID-19 is rising in their area.

Practically every state is now seeing a rise in cases. The virus has now killed over 228,000 in the U.S., according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Giroir warned that local governments may be forced to take “draconian measures” if Americans don’t take safety precautions seriously. “Cases will go up if we don’t make a change,” he said.

## TRADE

**BIDEN,** comparing Trump’s record on trade with that of the Obama administration: “We have a trade deficit that’s larger with China than when we were there.” — interview on “60 Minutes,” Oct. 25.

**THE FACTS:** Biden’s claim is outdated and no longer true. The U.S. deficit in the trade of goods and services with China fell last year to \$308 billion — the lowest since 2013 — as Trump slapped taxes on most Chinese imports to the United States. And the gap is down again so far this year.

In the first two years of the Trump presidency, however, the United States ran higher trade deficits with China — \$380 billion in 2018 and \$337 billion in 2017 — than any recorded during the Obama administration. The deficit was \$310 billion in 2016, the last year of the Obama presidency.

## 2020 ELECTION

**TRUMP:** “It would be very, very proper and very nice if a winner were declared on November third, instead of counting ballots for two weeks, which is totally inappropriate and I don’t believe that that’s by our laws.” — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** “Our laws” don’t require the immediate reporting of all election results in the country on election night. Delayed counting is unavoidable.

Apart from the usual lags in rounding up and reporting totals from every precinct in the country, the U.S. is seeing unprecedented numbers of early votes, and some battleground states won’t even start counting them until Election Day votes have been tallied.

Indeed, the Supreme Court is allowing Pennsylvania to count mailed ballots that are not even received by elections officials for three days after the election, as long as there’s no evidence that such ballots were filled out after Nov. 3. The decision isn’t final: Justices left open the possibility of reviewing the matter after the election.



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The court is also allowing absentee ballots in North Carolina to be received and counted up to nine days after Election Day.

Earlier in the campaign, Trump asserted that the winner should be declared on election night, another outcome no one can guarantee and one that may elude the country Tuesday. There is no requirement that the winner be determined Election Day.

He once raised the question of delaying the election, then dropped the thought, but has persisted in groundless allegations that the election is certain to be plagued by fraud.

TRUMP: "Strongly Trending (Google) since immediately after the second debate is CAN I CHANGE MY VOTE? This refers changing it to me. The answer in most states is YES. Go do it. Most important Election of your life!" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Not so fast. Some states allow voters to switch their early vote, but laws vary and many have restrictions.

Minnesota, for instance, allows voters to "claw back" their vote and change it, but the deadline for that has passed. Wisconsin allows people to change their vote up to three times, though it doesn't happen often. Florida allows voters who received mail ballots to choose to vote in person instead, but they cannot vote more than once.

If a voter has already sent his or her mail-in ballot and then goes to vote in person, "the (mail) ballot is deemed cast and the voter to have voted," according to Florida law.

David Becker of the Center for Election Innovation said changing a vote in states where that is possible is "extremely rare" and very complicated.

"It's hard enough to get people to vote once — it's highly unlikely anybody will go through this process twice," he said.

Trump's suggestion that he did so well in the debate that people who already voted for Biden wished they could switch to him is not borne out by the search engine's statistics.

Google searches for "change my vote" did not crack the top 20 searches that night or after. Jill Biden was the subject of Google's 20th most popular search that day. On Friday, the new "Borat" movie, presidential polls and college football were among the subjects drawing top 20 attention.

TRUMP: "Big problems and discrepancies with Mail In Ballots all over the USA." — tweet on Oct. 26.

THE FACTS: No, the catastrophe Trump has warned darkly about for months in mail-in voting has not materialized.

There have been sporadic reports of voters receiving mail ballots that were incorrectly formatted and other localized hitches in the record early turnout, but large-scale disenfranchisement has not been seen.

Trump has conspiratorially inflated local incidents, contending, for example, that mail-in ballots filled out for him are being dumped in rivers or creeks. This is a fabrication.

Three trays of mail were found by the side of a road and in a ditch — not a river or creek — in Greenville, Wisconsin, in mid-September. The sheriff initially said "several absentee ballots" were in the mix. The state's elections officer later said no Wisconsin ballots were in the lost mail after all. No one said ballots marked for Trump were thrown out in the incident.

Trump's motive for challenging votes by mail is plain: Democrats are dominating that segment of voting. Registered Democrats have also outnumbered registered Republicans in early voting in person at polling places, though the gap is narrower than with mailed ballots.

In short, Trump may need supporters to show up in huge numbers Tuesday if not before, and his baseless allegations of early-voting irregularities are designed to motivate them to do so as well as to portray the result as illegitimate if Biden wins.

## VOTING FRAUD

TRUMP, suggesting that Nevada's Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak will add fraudulent votes: "We're wor-

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ried about the governor. ... Some of these people, in Nevada, they want to have the election. They want to have the count weeks after November 3rd. So let's all wait for the governor to count them up good, and how many is he going to add during that two weeks, right?" — Arizona rally Wednesday.

TRUMP, on Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf: "The governor counts the ballots. ... This is the guy that's counting our ballots? It doesn't work. It doesn't work." — remarks Monday in Pennsylvania.

THE FACTS: To be clear, governors don't count the votes, and they can't just manufacture votes in the election.

Local county officials in Pennsylvania send out the ballots and count the votes. The state's top elections official is Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Wolf appointee.

In Nevada, Sisolak has been a target of Trump's ire after Sisolak in September criticized Trump's indoor rally in a Las Vegas suburb for violating the state's large-scale ban on indoor gatherings. But Sisolak doesn't tally the votes himself, and Trump makes a baseless assertion that he can add fraudulent votes to the count.

Nevada's secretary of state oversees that state's new all-mail election. That office is held by Barbara Cegavske and she is a Republican.

TRUMP: "In Nevada, they want to have a thing where you don't have to have any verification of the signature." -- New Hampshire rally Oct. 25.

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

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

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

THE FACTS: His claim, frequently made in the last days before the election, is overblown.

It's true that many states are expecting a surge in mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic, which may lead to longer times in vote counting. The Supreme Court, for instance, will allow Pennsylvania to count mailed-in ballots received up to three days after the election; it also will allow North Carolina to count votes received nine days after the election so long as ballots are postmarked by Nov. 3.

But there is no evidence to indicate that massive fraud is afoot. Any delay in declaring a winner of the presidential race after Tuesday would not in itself be illegal.

Broadly speaking, voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. The Brennan Center for Justice in 2017 ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections.

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

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

Associated Press writers Arijeta Lajka in New York, Tom Murphy in Indianapolis, Paul Wiseman and Darlene Superville in Washington; Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California; Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

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

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## Barrett to join Supreme Court arguments for the first time

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Amy Coney Barrett is expected to join her Supreme Court colleagues on Monday to hear arguments for the first time.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the high court began hearing cases by phone in May. That means the public won't see the new justice, but they'll be able to hear her if she asks questions, as all her colleagues have been doing. Also because of the pandemic, the court has been allowing the public to listen to arguments in real time, a change from the past.

Participating in oral arguments will be among the first things Barrett will do after being confirmed last week in a 52-48 virtual party-line vote, with Republicans overpowering Democrats to install President Donald Trump's third Supreme Court nominee.

She did not participate in decisions the high court issued last week involving extended timelines for receiving and counting ballots in Pennsylvania and North Carolina because of the need for a quick resolution and "because she has not had time to fully review the parties' filings," the court's spokeswoman said in a statement. But her vote also wouldn't have changed the outcome in either case.

The two cases Barrett will hear Monday are relatively low-profile, a dispute involving the Freedom of Information Act and another involving disability benefits for railroad employees. On Tuesday, however, as the country finishes voting, the court's cases include one about sentencing young people to life without parole. And on Wednesday, the day after Election Day, the court hears a case that involves a clash of LGBTQ rights and religious freedoms in a major swing state, Pennsylvania.

Next week brings a case that could threaten the Affordable Care Act, one that was front and center during Barrett's confirmation hearings last month. Democrats claimed that the Obama-era health law, known as "Obamacare," would be in jeopardy if Barrett joined the court. Trump has urged the court to overturn the law.

The justices have said they will continue to hear cases by phone through at least December. So it's unclear when Barrett will move in to her offices at the court, taking over the space of her predecessor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

On Monday, Chief Justice John Roberts is expected to offer a traditional, short welcome, to Barrett before arguments begin, wishing her "a long and happy career in our common calling." And the court will have a typical two hours of argument in two cases.

The pandemic has upended other traditions. If the justices were in their courtroom, Barrett would join her colleagues in a round of handshakes before taking the bench, a tradition every time the justices meet for argument or their private conference that was suspended months ago because of the pandemic. Spectators would see her emerge from behind the court's red curtains and take a seat on the far right hand side of the bench, the junior-most justice's seat. She would be seated next to Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump's first nominee to the court.

And while arguments in the courtroom are a free-for-all, with justices constantly jumping in with questions, the court's phone-arguments are more orderly. Each justice gets to ask each lawyer questions in order of seniority. As the junior justice, Barrett will ask her questions last.

## 6 questions going into the presidential election

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Election Day is finally upon us.

Or at least what we still call Election Day, since more than 92 million Americans have already cast ballots in an election that has been reshaped by the worst pandemic in more than a century, its economic fallout and a long-simmering reckoning with systemic racism.

Here are some key questions we are considering as the final votes are cast and counted:

WHAT DO AMERICANS WANT FROM A PRESIDENT?

Elections are always about where Americans want to steer the country. That's especially true this year as the U.S. confronts multiple crises and is choosing between two candidates with very different visions for the future.

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President Donald Trump has downplayed the coronavirus outbreak even as cases surge across the U.S. He has panned governors — virtually all Democrats — who have imposed restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the disease. And he has bucked public health guidelines by holding his signature campaign rallies featuring crowds of supporters — often unmasked — packed shoulder to shoulder.

His Democratic rival, Joe Biden, has said he'd heed the advice of scientists. He's pledged to work with state and local officials across the country to push mask mandates and has called on Congress to pass a sweeping response package.

Trump casts protests of systemic racism as radical and has emphasized a "law and order" message to appeal to his largely white base. Biden acknowledges systemic racism, picked the first Black woman to appear on a major party's presidential ticket and has positioned himself as a unifying figure.

The candidates also hold distinctly different views on everything from climate change and the environment to taxes and the scope of federal regulation.

## WHOSE TURNOUT APPROACH WINS?

The two parties took wildly different approaches to contacting voters amid the pandemic.

Democrats stopped knocking on doors in the spring, going all-digital and phone. They resumed limited in-person contacts in September. Republicans continued traditional field work the entire campaign.

The GOP can point to success in increasing their voter registration in battleground states. Democrats can point to their early voting success, including from notable slices of new voters. But only the final tally will vindicate one strategy or the other.

## WILL VOTING BE PEACEFUL?

Each major party can install official poll watchers at precincts. It's the first time in decades Republicans could use the practice after the expiration of a court order limiting their activities. So it's an open question how aggressive those official poll watchers will be in monitoring voters or even challenging eligibility.

The bigger issue is likely to be unofficial "poll watchers" — especially self-declared militias. Voter intimidation is illegal, but Trump, in the Sept. 29 presidential debate, notably refused to state plainly that he'd accept election results and instead said he is "urging my supporters to go into the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen. I am urging them to do it."

In Michigan, where federal authorities recently arrested members of anti-government paramilitary groups in an alleged plot to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Democratic secretary of state tried to impose a ban on carrying firearms openly at a polling place. A Michigan judge struck down the order.

## WHITHER THE EXURBS AND SMALLER CITIES?

Trump's reelection depends on driving up his margins in rural areas and smaller towns and cities — those expansive swaths of red on the county-by-county results map from 2016.

But acres don't vote, people do, and Biden is casting a wide demographic and geographic net. His ideal coalition is anchored in metro areas, but he hopes to improve Democratic turnout among nonwhite voters and college-educated voters across the map.

There are places where the competing strategies overlap: exurban counties — those communities on the edges of the large metropolitan footprints — and counties anchored by smaller stand-alone cities.

Two potential indicators that could have close-to-complete unofficial returns sooner than later and portend broader results:

**FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA** — Part of metro Atlanta's growing, diversifying northern ring. Republican Mitt Romney won 80% of 81,900 votes in 2012, while Trump's share dropped to 70% of nearly 99,000 votes in 2016. If that trendline continues, it would signal first that GOP-controlled Georgia is indeed a toss-up. More broadly, it would suggest Trump's suburban-exurban problems are real.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO** — Dayton and its surroundings. They make up one of the 206 "pivot counties" that flipped from President Barack Obama to Trump. Obama won 51.4% of the vote in 2012 to 46.8% for Romney (Obama's statewide win was 50.6-47.6). Trump nipped Hillary Clinton in 2016, but mostly because she lost 15,000 votes from Obama's 2012 count (137,139), while Trump fell only about 950 votes short of Romney's mark (124,841). A clear Biden rebound with a Trump drop-off is not the trend



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Republicans want to see in a midsize metro footprint. A 1968 REDUX? HOW ABOUT 1980?

Trump spent considerable energy this year posturing as a "law and order" president, blasting nationwide protests of racial injustice and occasional violence as left-wing rioting that previewed "Joe Biden's America."

The president's allies pointed to 1968, when widespread unrest amid the Vietnam War, general social upheaval and the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy benefited Republican Richard Nixon as he built his "silent majority." But Nixon wasn't the incumbent in 1968. In fact, the political atmosphere was so bad for President Lyndon Johnson that the Democrat didn't seek reelection.

Many Democrats and some Republicans are now pointing more at 1980, when Republican Ronald Reagan trounced President Jimmy Carter and the GOP flipped a whopping 12 Democratic Senate seats. Trump's standing in the polls over 2020 has tracked only slightly above where Carter spent much of the 1980 election year, as he battled inflation, high unemployment and the Iran hostage crisis. But what appeared a tight race on paper as late as October turned into a rout. Even Democratic heavyweights like Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh and South Dakota Sen. George McGovern, once a presidential nominee, fell.

It's a more polarized era four decades later. But the lesson is that Trump would defy history to win reelection amid such a cascade of crises and voter dissatisfaction.

**WHEN WILL THE RACE BE CALLED?**

Absentee voting amid coronavirus has changed the vote-counting timeline, and there aren't uniform practices for counting those ballots. That makes it difficult to predict when certain key battlegrounds, much less a national result, could be called.

For example, Pennsylvania and Michigan — battlegrounds Trump won by less than 1 percentage point in 2016 — aren't expected to have complete-but-unofficial totals for days. Florida and North Carolina, meanwhile, began processing early ballots ahead of time, with officials there forecasting earlier unofficial returns. But those two states also could have razor-thin margins.

Early returns, meanwhile, could show divergent results. Biden's expected to lead comfortably among early voters, for example. Trump is likely to counter with a lead among Election Day voters. Depending on which counties report which batch of votes first, perennially close states could tempt eager partisans to reach conclusions that aren't necessarily accurate.

## **AP Explains: The election result may be delayed. That's OK.**

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

Patience, America.

We may not know who won the presidential election on Tuesday night. And if so, it does not necessarily mean anything is broken, fraudulent, corrupted or wrong.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly suggested a slower-than-typical result is a sign of trouble.

"I think it's terrible that we can't know the results of an election the night of the election," he said on Sunday. "I think it's a terrible thing when states are allowed to tabulate ballots for a long period of time after the election is over."

It's unclear what the president thinks is a long period. But it's standard practice to continue tabulating votes after Election Day.

Here's a closer look at why that count could take longer than usual, and why that might mean you go to bed Tuesday without knowing the winner:

**WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?**

The biggest factor that may slow things down this year is clear: Millions of Americans decided to vote by mail rather than risk contracting coronavirus at a polling place. And in general, those mail ballots take longer to count.

Election workers must remove the ballots from their envelopes, check for errors, sort them and flatten them — all before they can be run through scanners the moment polls close and be tabulated. In states with well-established vote-by-mail programs, this processing happens weeks before Election Day. The results are often released quickly.

But several states did not have this system in place before this year and laws on the books prohibited

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election officials from processing the ballots well in advance of Election Day. Without a head start, there's virtually no way to process and count all the mail votes on Election Day, while also counting all the in-person votes.

There are three important battlegrounds with restrictions on when the mail vote can be processed — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In those states, Republican-controlled legislatures have resisted pleas from election officials to update the laws to allow for a speedier count. (The Michigan legislature did allow processing to begin 24 hours before Election Day in cities, but election officials say that's not enough of a head start.) Instead, they will initially report in-person votes — expected to heavily favor Trump — and gradually update with the more Democratic-leaning mail ballots later.

**BUT DON'T NEWS ORGANIZATIONS CALL A WINNER BEFORE ALL THE VOTE IS COUNTED?**

Yes, there's never been a presidential race in history in which all votes are counted on election night. It's just not physically possible to instantly count that many ballots — possibly as many as 150 million on the night of Nov. 3.

Media organizations, including The Associated Press, declare winners in thousands of races on election night based on the results that are in, voter surveys and other political data.

But in a close race, more of the vote may need to be counted before the AP can call a winner.

**IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR KNOWING THE WINNER ON ELECTION NIGHT?**

Sure. Not all battleground states are slow-counting states. So if several key states release their results promptly, one candidate may have a majority of the electoral vote — even without knowing who won in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania or Michigan.

That becomes more likely if the races in those states are not close.

It's a scenario that puts a lot of eyes on Florida. The state allows its election offices to process mail ballots 22 days before the election. It's also the biggest swing state. As long as the race isn't too close — a big "if" in a place famous for tight races — there could be a close-to-complete count by midnight. And if Trump loses Florida, it's very difficult for him to reach the 270 electoral votes he needs to defeat former Vice President Joe Biden and return to the White House.

Two other Southern battlegrounds — North Carolina and Georgia — also can begin processing mail ballots early. They are both considered critical states for Trump. However, unlike Florida, neither state has a record of handling a large number of mail ballots. It's unclear how quickly they will count those votes.

Finally, two Midwestern states — Iowa and Ohio — also allow for early processing of mail ballots. Trump won both states handily in 2016, but Democrats believe Biden is competitive there. Results in those two states on election night could give hints about what lies ahead in the critical Rust Belt states that take longer to count.

**WHAT IS THE RED MIRAGE? WHAT IS THE BLUE SHIFT?**

Watching results come in this year may be a bit disorienting. That's because the two parties are voting in two very different ways. Democrats have flocked to voting by mail, while Trump has encouraged Republicans to vote on Election Day.

Depending on which type of vote is being reported — the mail votes, the votes cast in person at early voting sites or the Election Day vote — the results could look skewed in one candidate's favor.

In general, those early processing states — Florida, Georgia, Ohio and North Carolina — will report mail ballots first. Those will skew Democratic. But then those states will start tallying Election Day votes. Those should lean Republican. So initial returns may be heavily Democratic, then become more Republican as the night goes on.

But the pattern could be reversed in those critical Rust Belt battlegrounds of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. There, the initial vote reported will be the heavily-Republican in-person Election Day ballots, that could be misleading — a "red mirage." That's because Democrats may catch up as mail ballots are tabulated in the hours and days afterward — that's been referred to as the "blue shift"

**SO HOW DO I KNOW WHO IS WINNING?**

Pay close attention to which vote is being reported. Read AP's coverage, analysis and surveys on the

race. And wait. Patience, America.

## Families, day cares feel strain of new COVID-19 health rules

By SALLY HO The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Joelle Wheatley hit her pandemic-parenting rock bottom after her son was sent home from day care for a second time, with the sniffles, due to stricter health guidelines in a symptom-sensitive COVID-19 world.

It was supposed to be Jacob's first day back after a stressful 10-day home quarantine for another mild symptom that turned out to be harmless. Frustrated, desperate — there were no other care options, and she needed to focus on work — and certain that the 2-year-old's runny nose and cough were also benign, the Seattle mom defied the day care's orders and brought him back the next day anyway.

"I was just so sure he had a cold, and that sounds so irresponsible," said Wheatley, 43, who works at an early education nonprofit. "But I honestly was just in such a low place."

As more families make the jump back to group day care this fall in an attempt to restart lives and careers, many parents, pediatricians and care operators are finding that new, pandemic-driven rules offer a much-needed layer of safety but also seem incompatible with the germy reality of childhood.

They stem largely from coronavirus guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowering the fever threshold, disqualifying even a single bout of diarrhea or vomiting and making sniffles suspect in group settings.

But the guidelines don't take into account that young children are prone to catching the common viral infections that help build up their immune systems, or that seasonal allergies, crying, even teething and normal playground exertion can prompt a COVID-19-like symptom.

And the price parents and kids pay for such symptoms — which could easily signal either a happy, healthy toddler, or a lurking case of the disease that has now killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. — is now a dayslong disruption.

That's a reality Wheatley knows all too well: Jacob was turned away again on Day 2 and she then had to scramble to get him a coronavirus test and an appointment with a doctor who wrote a note confirming the boy was virus-free. It took two days to get Jacob back to preschool, causing her anxiety about his health and guilt over neglecting work.

Medical experts acknowledge the lines are blurry for kids with symptoms.

The CDC notes on its website that young children commonly have up to eight respiratory illnesses or colds each year as a matter of course. In its guidelines for K-12 schools, the CDC warns that excluding children for longer than "existing" policies over COVID-19 symptoms alone could cause unnecessary absences.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' latest child care guidelines released in October initially didn't include congestion, runny nose, vomiting or diarrhea on its symptoms checklist. Following questions from The Associated Press, the pediatricians' group updated its recommendations on Friday to include those symptoms in alignment with the CDC, calling it an oversight.

Dr. Elaine Donoghue, who helped write the pediatricians' child care guidelines, said any symptom must be taken seriously if it looks even vaguely like COVID-19. While young children are prone to minor infections, they now in theory face less exposure to those milder illnesses due to pandemic-related social distancing, and that means the calculus behind assessing symptoms changes.

"We should not be expecting certainty during a pandemic," Donoghue said. "This is an uncertain time."

Considered essential in many states, day cares are one of the few services that have remained open through the pandemic that's now stretched nine months and counting in the U.S. Numerous programs have permanently closed, though there are signs families are trickling back to preschool.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of people working in child care has recovered steadily in recent months. But while the 853,000 workers reported in September marks a 28% jump from April, it's still below the more than 1 million in the field a year ago.

Lois Martin, who runs the Community Day Center for Children in Seattle, said the learning curve has

been steep for her staff since most of her families returned to the day care. The preschool teachers are now being asked to take on responsibilities requiring medical expertise, such as evaluating runny nose secretions based on thickness and color.

"This is definitely not the world we want our children to be in," Martin said.

In October, the Child Care Aware of America advocacy group released a national survey conducted by Yale researchers in May and June of more than 57,000 child care employees — including those who were and were not actively working at the time — and found no link to known positive coronavirus infections or hospitalizations among the workforce. The study's authors say this suggests that when done under such strict guidelines, child care can be safe from widespread transmission during the pandemic.

Wheatley and her husband have seen firsthand the benefits of having vigilant sanitizing, social distancing and symptom-checking: A teacher at their day care had the coronavirus in August, but it never spread to any other workers, kids or families.

So, the couple, who also have a 10-month-old baby, now figure future day care disruptions will become just another part of the new normal, with the kids inevitably being kicked out again when there's a hint of possible illness.

"It's not sustainable," Wheatley said. "Our solution is going to be suck it up and be unhappy and eventually move" to be near family who can help.

That kind of strain on families has Deeann Puffert, CEO of the Washington branch of Child Care Aware, worrying that parents may start hiding symptoms from caregivers.

"To meet the (health) requirements and maintain the joy of caregiving and early caregiving — it's just challenging," Puffert said. "There are no answers."

Follow Sally Ho on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/\\_SallyHo](https://twitter.com/_SallyHo)

## For Mexico's doctors, an especially mournful Day of the Dead

By LISSETTE ROMEO Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The diminutive figure of a skeleton in a face mask and medical cap has a hand on a bedridden patient. At its side is the sort of skull made of sugar common on Day of the Dead altars. And behind is the photo of a white-haired 64-year-old man in glasses smiling at the camera: the late Dr. Jose Luis Linares.

He is one of more than 1,700 Mexican health workers officially known to have died of COVID-19 who are being honored with three days of national mourning on these Days of the Dead.

Linares attended to patients at a private clinic in a poor neighborhood in the southern part of the city, usually charging about 30 pesos (roughly \$1.50) a consultation. Because he didn't work at an official COVID-19 center, his family doesn't qualify for the assistance the government gives to medical personnel stricken by the disease, his widow said.

"I told him, 'Luis, don't go to work.' But he told me, 'Then who is going to see those poor people,'" said his widow, Dr. María del Rosario Martínez. She said he had taken precautions against the disease because of lungs damaged by an earlier illness.

In addition to the usual marigolds and paper cutouts for Day of the Dead altars, hers this year includes little skeleton figures shown doing consultations or surgeries in honor of colleagues who have died.

It's echoed in many parts of a country that as of September, according to Amnesty International, had lost more medical professionals to the coronavirus than any other nation.

They include people like nurse Jose Valencia, and Dr. Samuel Silva Montenegro of Mexico City, whose images rest atop altars in the homes of loved ones in Mexico City,

Martínez's altar is in a living room beside a room in their apartment where she and her husband gave consultations. Martínez, who also fell ill but recovered, now sees patients only online or by phone.

Linares died May 25 after being hospitalized at a peak of infections in Mexico City. Martínez lost consciousness at the news, but when she came to, she found her only son and her sister were hugging her.



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"Don't touch me, don't touch me!" she yelled, fearing they too would be infected.

At the peak of her own illness, she trekked from saturated hospital to overflowing clinic, looking for help. Martínez, 59, said she now feels better, and at peace, though not resigned to the loss of her husband of 36 years, who she first met as a girl selling gum outside a movie theater to help support her eight brothers and sisters.

"I feel strange," she said. "But I owe it to the patients and they are going to help me get through this." She said, though, that she expects to work fewer hours.

"I'm afraid because we don't know how much immunity you're doing to have, how long it will work," she said. "The illness is very hard, very cruel. ... All over the world, we are going to have a very sad story to tell."

Mexico has reported more than 924,000 confirmed coronavirus infections and nearly 140,000 deaths listed as confirmed or probable, though experts say the actual numbers are likely significantly higher.

Still Martínez has found comfort in Mexico's Day of the Dead practices.

"According to the traditions and beliefs, he is going to come here, accompany us, and he is going to be happy that I am thinking of him in this moment."

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Associated Press writer Maria Verza contributed to this report.

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Associated Press writer Maria Verza contributed to this report.

## Sword-wielding man arrested after Halloween deaths in Quebec

QUEBEC CITY (AP) — A man dressed in medieval clothing and armed with a Japanese sword was arrested Sunday on suspicion of killing two people and wounding five others on Halloween near the historic Château Frontenac hotel in Quebec City.

The attack on randomly chosen victims went on for nearly 2 1/2 hours while police pursued the man armed with a katana throughout the city's downtown core on foot, Quebec Police Chief Robert Pigeon said.

Quebec's prosecutor's office said Carl Girouard, 24, faces two counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder. Girouard appeared before a judge via video-conference Sunday and the next

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hearing in the case is expected to be on Thursday

Police said their initial information indicated the suspect's motive was personal and not terrorism.

"Last night we were thrust into a night of horror when a 24-year-old man who does not live in Quebec City came here with the clear intention of taking as many victims as possible," Pigeon said.

Pigeon said the suspect, who was from the Montreal area, had no criminal record, but that "in a medical context" over five years ago, he had shared his intention to commit this type of act. He said the investigation continued.

Police were first notified of the stabbings near the National Assembly shortly before 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and warned people to remain indoors as they hunted for the attacker.

The two people killed were identified as 56-year-old Francois Duchesne and 61-year-old Suzanne Clermont.

Residents huddled outside Clermont's home, where they placed a box filled with flowers and a stuffed cat at her front door.

One neighbor said Clermont was out smoking a cigarette when she was attacked.

"She was my friend," said Lucie Painchaud, a resident of the area for 16 years. "It's unbelievable. I can't still compute."

The horror of Saturday night's events was also setting in at the nearby Musee National des Beaux-Arts du Quebec, where Duchesne was described as a much-loved employee.

"We are all in shock," spokeswoman Linda Tremblay said in a statement, describing the attack as an "inexplicable and unfair tragedy."

The five injured victims were taken to a hospital. "Some have very significant lacerations but we do not fear for their lives," Pigeon said.

Steve Jolicoeur, a freelance photographer, said the deceased male had his throat slit. Jolicoeur said another person was cut on the shoulder while another was cut on the head and hand.

He said he witnessed the arrest of the suspect, who threw his sword in the air.

"He seemed confused," Jolicoeur said. "He was in black clothes, like a ninja."

Police were searching his car and residence. He was due to make a video court appearance later Sunday

Quebec City Mayor Regis Labeaume said Canada needs to have a debate about how to deal with mental illness. He said the attack has shaken the city, which is still recovering from a shooting at a mosque in 2017 that killed six people.

"Quebec is waking up after a night of horror. Words fail me to describe such a tragedy. I offer my condolences to the families of the victims," Quebec Premier Francois Legault tweeted.

Carlos Godoy, who lives in the area, said police K-9 units had searched his backyard as they hunted for the suspect.

"It's a full moon, it's October 31st. It's Halloween, and it's a lockdown weekend. No one should be out on the streets," Godoy said. "And I'm in an extremely quiet neighborhood because there are no tourists nowadays."

The area around the Chateau Frontenac, the towering landmark of the walled old city, is usually bustling with tourists in normal times.

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Associated Press writer Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.

## 'American Idol' contestant Nikki McKibbin dies at 42

Associated Press undefined

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Nikki McKibbin, a singer from Texas best known for her third place finish in the first season of American Idol, has died. She was 42.

McKibbin's husband, Craig Sadler, confirmed her death in a Facebook post, saying that she had died after suffering a brain aneurysm on Wednesday and was taken off life support early Sunday. Her husband did not say where she died.

McKibbin's son, Tristen Langley, told The New York Times that his mother died in Arlington, Texas.

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"She was so loved that I know thousands of you will be grieving with us," Sadler said. "She loved so many of you and I know you loved her too."

McKibbin appeared on American Idol in 2002, when the show started and became an instant hit.

A 23-year-old from Grand Prairie, Texas, McKibbin impressed the judges with soulful performances of songs by Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks and a stirring cover of Alanna Myles' song "Black Velvet."

McKibbin finished third on the show that year, behind Justin Guarini and Kelly Clarkson, who won the competition.

Gracious in defeat, McKibbin tearfully hugged her fellow contestants when she was voted out in 2002.

"What an incredible journey this has been," McKibbin said before leaving the stage. "Just to know that so many people support me and enjoy what I do means more than anything in the world."

The often acid-tongued Simon Cowell was equally gracious.

"Reality check: Out of 10,000 people, you are third. This is not a time for tears," he told McKibbin. "You've got a career ahead of you."

In a statement, American Idol sent its condolences to McKibbin's family and friends.

"Nikki McKibbin was an incredible talent and we are deeply saddened by the news of her passing," the TV show said in a statement posted on Twitter. "She was part of our American Idol family and will be truly missed."

## Biden works to push Black turnout in campaign's final days

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, KAT STAFFORD, ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Biden was spending the final days of the presidential campaign appealing to Black supporters to vote in-person during a pandemic that has disproportionately affected their communities, betting that a strong turnout will boost his chances in states that could decide the election.

Biden was in Philadelphia on Sunday, the largest city in what is emerging as the most hotly contested battleground in the closing 48 hours of the campaign. He participated in a "souls to the polls" event that is part of a nationwide effort to organize Black churchgoers to vote.

"Every single day we're seeing race-based disparities in every aspect of this virus," Biden said at the drive-in event, shouting to be heard over the blaring car horns. He declared that Trump's handling of COVID-19 was "almost criminal" and that the pandemic was a "mass casualty event in the Black community."

His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, was in Georgia, a longtime Republican stronghold that Democrats believe could flip if Black voters show up in force. The first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket, she encouraged a racially diverse crowd in a rapidly growing Atlanta suburb to "honor the ancestors" by voting, invoking the memory of the late civil rights legend, longtime Rep. John Lewis. She later campaigned in Goldsboro and Fayetteville, North Carolina, two cities with a large share of Black voters.

But even as 93 million Americans have cast ballots and election officials prepare to count, President Donald Trump was already threatening litigation to stop the tabulation of ballots arriving after Election Day. As soon as polls closed in battlegrounds such as Pennsylvania, Trump said, "we're going in with our lawyers."

It was unclear precisely what Trump meant. There is already an appeal pending at the Supreme Court over the counting of absentee ballots in Pennsylvania that are received in the mail in the three days after the election.

The state's top court ordered the extension and the Supreme Court refused to block it, though conservative justices expressed interest in taking up the propriety of the three added days after the election. Those ballots are being kept separate in case the litigation goes forward. The issue could assume enormous importance if the late-arriving ballots could tip the outcome.

Biden is focusing on turning out Black voters in the final stretch in part to avoid a narrow outcome that could prompt Trump to seek an advantage in the courts.

It's a challenging dynamic because Democrats have spent months pushing their supporters to vote by mail. But their energy has shifted to urge Black supporters who have long preferred to vote in person or distrust voting by mail to get out on Tuesday.

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A Biden path toward victory must include Black majority cities, including Philadelphia and Detroit, which will be crucial in determining the outcome in Pennsylvania and Michigan. Those are states where both candidates have spent a significant amount of time in the final days of the 2020 election.

"The historical but also cultural reality for our community is that Election Day represents a collective political act and it's a continuation of our struggle for full citizenship in this country," said Adrienne Shropshire, the executive director of BlackPAC. "Black voters are showing up in ways that they did not in 2016 and we can take heart in that."

In Detroit, officials are projecting a 50% voter turnout, which would be higher than 2016, yet lower than 2008 and 2012 when Obama's candidacy drew record voter participation. Grassroots organizers in the Philadelphia area have spent months engaging potential voters, many of whom they expect will be casting ballots for the first time on Election Day.

"Most Black voters in Philly have been skeptical of mail-in voting," said Joe Hill, a veteran Democratic operative-turned-lobbyist from the city. "A lot of us have gotten our ballots already," Hill said, but added, "Election Day has always been everything in Philadelphia."

Healthcare Pennsylvania, a local union chapter of the Service Employees International Union, is working to increase turnout by at least 10,000 in west Philadelphia and spent the weekend knocking on more than 600 doors. West Philadelphia has a majority Black population and has experienced firsthand the convergence of the pandemic's disproportionate impact on Black Americans and protests in recent days against police brutality, mirroring what's occurred nationwide.

Biden has also drawn a sharp contrast to Trump through a summer of unrest over the police killings of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky and George Floyd in Minneapolis. Their deaths sparked the largest protest movement since the civil rights era. Biden responded by acknowledging the systemic racism that pervades American life, while Trump emphasized his support of police and pivoted to a "law and order" message that resonated with his base but did little to broaden his appeal.

Four years ago, Trump made his pitch to voters of color by bellowing "What have you got to lose?" in supporting the Republican candidate and aides have pointed to pre-pandemic economic gains by people of color.

He only won 8% of the Black vote, but in a development that has haunted Democrats for four years, Clinton's margin fell 7 percentage points from Obama's in 2012, according to Pew Research Center.

There's little chance that Trump will win all that many more Black voters this year, though his campaign believes it has made inroads with young Black men. The president's primary strategy has been to erode Biden's support with a barrage of negative advertisements.

One replays Biden's eyebrow-raising "you ain't Black" comment, in which the former vice president questioned how African Americans could support Trump. Another uses the Democrat's own past words in support of the 1994 crime bill against him. The bill, which Biden helped write, led to stiffer prison sentences that disproportionately incarcerated Black men.

Trump, in a tweet Sunday, claimed that Biden called young Black man "superpredators" — which he did not do, though he used the term "predators" in a 1993 floor speech to describe criminals.

Biden, who has a massive cash advantage over Trump, has flooded the airwaves with uplifting ads that prominently feature African Americans. One minute-long spot detailing Biden's proposals to help Black people begins with Biden explicitly stating, "Black lives matter. Period. I'm not afraid to say it."

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Lemire reported from Washington, Stafford from Detroit and Miller from Charlotte. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Mark Sherman and Brian Slodysko in Washington contributed to this report.

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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/>

**Video altered to make it look like Biden greeted wrong state**



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By ALI SWENSON Associated Press

It's an awkward moment when a presidential candidate greets the audience at a rally and names the wrong state.

Fortunately for Democratic nominee Joe Biden, that didn't happen to him this week, despite a widely shared video that appears to show him saying "Hello, Minnesota" to a crowd in Florida.

It turns out he was, indeed, in Minnesota. The video that was shared had been altered to change the text on a sign and the podium to refer to Tampa, Florida, instead of Minnesota.

What you need to know about this edited video and the falsehoods spreading around it:

**CLAIM:** Video shows Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden mistakenly saying "Hello, Minnesota" at a campaign event in Tampa, Florida.

**AP'S ASSESSMENT:** False. The sign behind Biden in this video has been edited to add the words "Tampa, Florida" and remove the words "TEXT MN to 30330." The podium has also been edited to add "FL" instead of "MN." Original video from this event confirms that Biden was in Minnesota and addressed the correct state in his greeting.

**THE FACTS:** An altered video circulating widely on social media appears to show Biden making a cringe-worthy mistake: addressing Minnesotans during a campaign stop across the country in Tampa, Florida.

"Hello, Minnesota!" Biden says after taking the stage. Behind him, a sign appears to read, "Tampa, Florida" and "Battle for the Soul of the Nation."

Biden continues, "Jessica, thank you for being here, for sharing your story." Then, the 16-second clip ends.

The video had more than a million views on Twitter on Sunday and was spreading quickly the weekend before the U.S. presidential election. However, the words on the sign and the podium in this video have been manipulated. Several sources prove that Biden did not address the wrong state in his greeting and he was indeed in Minnesota.

An original version of the video on C-SPAN shows it was taken during an Oct. 30 campaign stop in St. Paul, Minnesota. The sign did not read "Tampa, Florida," but instead said "TEXT MN to 30330." The podium did not read "TEXT FL to 30330," but instead said "TEXT MN to 30330."

Several Associated Press images from the event provide additional proof that the sign and podium said "TEXT MN to 30330" and did not include mention of Florida.

There are other contextual clues as well. The video shows Biden wearing a thick coat for Minnesota's cold climate. At a recent appearance in the warmer Tampa, Florida, on Oct. 29, Biden only wore a suit jacket.

The Biden campaign also confirmed to the AP that the video was taken in Minnesota.

Biden's reference to someone named Jessica in his greeting was to Jessica Intermill, a Minnesotan with rheumatoid arthritis who spoke about health care at the St. Paul event before Biden took the stage.

## The Latest: Brazil protesters oppose vaccine mandate

By The Associated Press undefined

**SAO PAULO** — Protesters have gathered in Brazil's two biggest cities to demonstrate against any mandate for the taking of a coronavirus vaccine, supporting a rejection campaign encouraged by President Jair Bolsonaro in opposition to the advice of most health professionals.

A small group of people assembled in downtown Sao Paulo on Sunday calling for the removal of Sao Paulo state Gov. Joao Doria, who has said state residents will be required to take a vaccine, likely the one being developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Sinovac and the local Butantan Institute. Demonstrators supporting Bolsonaro on the question also protested on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

The issue has become a talking point in mayoral and city council campaigns for elections later this month.

Brazil has reported more than 5.5 million confirmed cases of coronavirus infections, and about 160,000 people have died from COVID-19, the disease that can be caused by the virus.

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

— UK says 4-week coronavirus lockdown may have to last longer

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— Pre-election virus spike creates concern for polling places  
— A company with no manufacturing facilities that is based in a luxury condo may be in line for as much as \$65 million in taxpayer dollars for antiviral plasma treatments.

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**MEXICO CITY** — Diminutive figures of skeletons in facemasks and medical caps are all too common on Mexico's Day of the Dead altars this year.

More than 1,700 Mexican health workers are officially known to have died of COVID-19 and they're being honored with three days of national mourning.

One is Dr. Jose Luis Linares, who attended to patients at a private clinic in a poor neighborhood in Mexico City, usually charging about 30 pesos (roughly \$1.50) a consultation.

"I told him, 'Luis, don't go to work.' But he told me, 'then who is going to see those poor people,'" said his widow, Dr. María del Rosario Martínez. She said he had taken precautions against the disease because of lungs damaged by an earlier illness.

Her Day of the Dead altar this year includes — in addition to the usual marigolds and paper cutouts — little skeleton figures shown doing consultations or surgeries in honor of colleagues who have died.

Amnesty International said last month that Mexico had lost more medical professionals to the coronavirus than any other nation.

**WASHINGTON** — Dr. Scott Atlas, one of President Donald Trump's science advisers, is apologizing after appearing on the Russian state-funded TV channel RT to criticize lockdown measures aimed at stemming the coronavirus.

In a tweet Sunday, Atlas wrote he was unaware that RT was a registered foreign agent. He said he regretted the interview and apologized, particularly to the national security community, "for allowing myself to be taken advantage of."

Atlas told RT over the weekend that he considered the COVID-19 pandemic to be mostly under control and that it was actually lockdowns that are "killing people."

RT is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which applies to people or companies disseminating information in the U.S. on behalf of foreign governments, political parties and other "foreign principals."

U.S. intelligence agencies have alleged RT served as a propaganda outlet for the Kremlin as part of a multi-pronged effort to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Russia denies interfering.

**PORTLAND, Maine** — Maine is reinstating restrictions meant to curb the spread of COVID-19 amid a resurgence of the virus, Gov. Janet Mills said Sunday.

Maine has been one of the most successful states at controlling the virus, but it's dealing with a wave of new infections. The rolling average of daily cases more than doubled from below 30 per day to more than 67 by Friday. The state reported 103 infections that day, the largest single day increase in cases.

The state had been slated to reopen bars Monday, but that has been postponed to a yet-to-be-determined date, said Mills, a Democrat.

The state is removing New York, Connecticut and New Jersey from its list of states that are exempt from travel restrictions, Mills said. That means visitors from those states must quarantine for two weeks or produce a negative coronavirus test.

Maine is also reducing indoor capacity limits from 100 to 50, Mills said.

The new restrictions take effect Wednesday.

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AVENAL, Calif. -- Authorities say an inmate at a central California prison has died of complications from the coronavirus, becoming the state's 79th person known to have a fatal case of COVID-19 while incarcerated.

The Avenal State Prison inmate died at a hospital Saturday. The prisoner's name was not released.

There have been 15,872 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the state prison system.

Of the 79 state prison inmates known to have died from the coronavirus, 28 were from the San Quentin State Prison. Twenty-six were incarcerated at the California Institution for Men in Chino.

Advocates say jails and prisons nationwide are prime locations for the virus to spread between inmates and staff. Officials have released hundreds of inmates to decrease jail and prison populations across the country during the pandemic.

ROME — The governor of the Italian region with the largest percentage of residents older than 65 has apologized for a tweet which contended the elderly aren't indispensable to the country's production, as Italy battles COVID-19.

The newspaper Corriere della Sera said Liguria Gov. Giovanni Toti, in a meeting Sunday with government ministers, had advocated limiting movement outside the home for those older than 70 in a bid to avoid a generalized, nationwide lockdown amid surging spread of coronavirus infections.

"For as much as every single COVID-19 victim pains us, we must keep in mind this data: Only yesterday among the 25 deaths in Liguria, 22 were very elderly patients," Toti tweeted on Sunday.

They are "persons for the most part in retirement, not indispensable to the productive effort" of the economy, tweeted Toti, who is 52. Nearly 29 percent of Liguria's residents are older than 65, compared to a nationwide percentage of just under 23 percent.

Maurizio Gasparri, a 64-year-old senator, slammed Toti's assessment of the elderly's value as "delirious." Apologizing for what he termed "misunderstandings," Toti later claimed his tweet was "badly extrapolated" and blamed it on an error by his social media manager.

PARIS — French families took advantage Sunday of an exception to national virus lockdown measures to gather at cemeteries to mark All Saints' Day and honor lost loved ones.

France's government has shut down all nonessential businesses and ordered people to stay indoors for the next month to slow accelerating virus infections, hospitalizations and deaths. But cemeteries stayed open and church services were allowed for the All Saints' holiday weekend.

Parisian Alice Crespel, who took her children to the cemetery in the historic Montmartre neighborhood, told The Associated Press, "It is very important to be with the kids and have them join their grandmother in a family reunion without taking risks."

The main exception to this lockdown is schools, which are allowed to stay open to reduce learning gaps and allow their parents to keep working.

While the lockdown is currently scheduled to end Dec. 1, Health Minister Olivier Veran warned that Christmas "will not be a normal holiday" this year and cautioned against planning big New Year's parties.

France reported 223 new virus-related deaths Saturday, for a total of 36,788, the world's seventh-highest reported death toll. COVID patients now occupy 68% of France's intensive care units, a proportion that has doubled in two weeks.

BEIRUT— Facing a relentless surge in cases of coronavirus infections, Lebanese authorities are lengthening a nationwide nighttime curfew and placing a number of towns and villages under total lockdown.

The Interior Ministry's decisions Sunday increase a nighttime curfew by four hours, asking people to stay off the streets and shops to close between 9pm local time and 5am. It did not set an end date.

The Interior Ministry also put 115 towns and villages in total lockdown for a week because of a high positive infection rate and "high level of danger." Bars and nightclubs will continue to be closed; restaurants and cafes are to continue to operate at 50% while public gatherings and parties are barred.

Lebanon, a country of over 5 million, has been witnessing a surge of infection cases, deaths and intensive care unit occupancy over the past weeks that brought the recorded cases to over 80,000. According to

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health ministry statistics, the number of recorded cases nearly doubled between September and October in the country that is also home to over 1 million refugees. The percentage of positive tests has increased to over 12% for every 100 tests and the average age of those who die from the virus has gone down.

ROME — Italy registered nearly 2,000 fewer new COVID-19 infections in its daily caseload Sunday, but it also conducted some 32,000 fewer swab tests to detect the virus in the last 24 hours.

With 29,907 confirmed new infections, Italy's total known coronavirus cases in the pandemic grew to 709,335, according to Health Ministry figures.

Weekends often see fewer tests carried out. Since Saturday, the deaths of 208 infected persons were registered, raising to 38,826 the number of known dead in the pandemic, the second-highest confirmed toll in Europe.

Italian government officials have been consulting with scientific advisers and regional and municipal representatives as Premier Giuseppe Conte ponders tighter restrictions he is expected to order this week to try to slow the galloping spread of contagion, especially in the areas of Milan in the north and Naples in the south.

GENEVA — Authorities in Geneva say Switzerland's largest hospital complex is facing "imminent saturation" and is preparing to airlift patients to other Swiss hospitals after a sixfold spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the last two weeks.

The Geneva canton, or region, said the University Hospitals of Geneva on Sunday counted 474 people hospitalized with coronavirus infections, including 56 in intensive care. That's up from 78 hospitalizations and 13 people in the ICU in mid-October.

"These figures point to a severe worsening of the situation," the canton said in a statement, noting that over 1,000 people have tested positive each day recently in the region of about 500,000 people.

Cantonal authorities held a rare Sunday news conference to announce new measures, including the closure of restaurants, bars, cinemas, gyms and other entertainment sites. Barber shops and other services requiring close physical contact are to close too. Operations at post offices, bookstores, doctors and dentist offices, repair shops and public administration offices are to continue. Geneva has already limited public gatherings to no more than five people in parks and other public spaces.

The measures begin on Monday and will last at least through Nov. 29, and amount to some of the strictest measures yet in Switzerland — a country that devolves much power and decision-making to cantonal authorities.

WASHINGTON — The government's top infectious diseases expert is cautioning that the U.S. will have to deal with "a whole lot of hurt" in the weeks ahead due to surging coronavirus cases. Dr. Anthony Fauci's comments in a Washington Post interview take issue with President Donald Trump's frequent assertion that the nation is "rounding the turn" on the virus.

Fauci says the U.S. "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" to stem rising cases as more people gather indoors during the colder fall and winter months. He says the U.S. will need to make an "abrupt change" in public health precautions.

Speaking of the risks, Fauci says he believes Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden "is taking it seriously from a public health perspective," while Trump is "looking at it from a different perspective." Fauci, who's on the White House coronavirus task force, says that perspective is "the economy and re-opening the country."

In response, White House spokesman Judd Deere says Trump always puts people's well-being first and Deere charges that Fauci has decided "to play politics" right before Tuesday's election.

TEHRAN — Iran hit another single-day record for coronavirus deaths as the country grapples with a sharp spike in cases.



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The Health Ministry reported Sunday that 434 people had died in 24 hours from the virus, bringing Iran's death toll in the pandemic to more than 35,000.

The ministry said it recorded 7,719 new confirmed infections since Saturday. Iran has reported more than 620,000 confirmed virus cases in all.

Most deaths have occurred in the capital, Tehran, which is also the most populated city in Iran. The head of the virology department at Masih Daneshvari Hospital in Tehran, Alireza Naji, warned that Iran could reach 900 confirmed coronavirus deaths per day if more restrictions on movement and gatherings are not imposed.

Tehran's City Council has proposed a two-week lockdown of the city. For the past three weeks, Iran has banned weddings and funeral gatherings, and closed universities and schools, as well as libraries, mosques, cinemas, museums and beauty salons to try and curb the spread of the virus in Tehran.

**PODGORICA, Montenegro** — Huge crowds have attended the funeral of the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro in violation of coronavirus.

Thousands on Sunday gathered outside the main church in the capital Podgorica for the liturgy and the burial of Bishop Amfilohije inside the church crypt.

The head of the Serbian Orthodox Church led the prayers inside the packed church joined by dozens of officials and clergy, many of whom did not wear face masks. Montenegro recently has seen a surge in virus cases.

Bishop Amfilohije died on Friday of COVID-19. He was well-known for fighting against a new religion law in the country.

In an illustration of the bishop's popularity, thousands have paid their respects since Saturday, passing by an open casket with his body. Many kissed the bishop's remains, prompting an appeal from doctors to close the coffin.

**ROME** — After days of protests over the Italian government's pandemic restrictions, the country's president has appealed to people to put aside partisan politics and pull together.

President Sergio Mattarella on Sunday visited a cemetery near Brescia, a northern city in Lombardy, the region which has largely borne the brunt of Italy's coronavirus outbreak to pay tribute to those who died from COVID-19.

Mattarella said he chose the cemetery because that's where someone carried out the "ignoble theft" of a cross placed there in memory of pandemic victims.

The head of state recalled Italy's more than 38,000 confirmed dead in the pandemic, including "the many who died in solitude."

He called for Italians, "whatever one's role or convictions," to unite with the "common aim of defending people's health and assuring the economic revival of our country."

Right-wing opposition leaders have been railing against the center-left government's infection-prevention measures, contending they unfairly penalize and don't reflect their input.

## Protests in Brazil support president in anti-vaccine stance

By CHRISTIANA SCIAUDONE Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Small groups of protesters gathered in Brazil's two biggest cities Sunday to demonstrate against any mandate for the taking of a coronavirus vaccine, supporting a rejection campaign encouraged by President Jair Bolsonaro.

People assembled in downtown Sao Paulo calling for the removal of Sao Paulo state Gov. Joao Doria, who has said state residents will be required to take a vaccine, likely the one being developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Sinovac and the local Butantan Institute.

"Doria will fall!" the protestors chanted. "Out with Doria!"

The CoronaVac, as it is being called, has been a prime target for skepticism from Bolsonaro and others,

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with the president saying Brazilians will not be guinea pigs to the Chinese. The issue has become a talking point in mayoral and city council campaigns for elections later this month, and as most health professions support vaccination, social media campaigns have raised questions about possible perils of vaccines.

Demonstrators supporting Bolsonaro on the question also protested on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

A PoderData poll said this week the percentage of Brazilians who say they would take a coronavirus vaccine dropped to 63% in October from 85% four months earlier. The percentage rejecting the idea of taking a vaccine rose to 22% from 8% in July.

The Getulio Vargas Foundation think tank said an analysis of 2 million Twitter postings found that 24% of profiles identified as pro-Bolsonaro and they accounted for 56% of mentions against the vaccine. On the other side, 47% of profiles identified as pro-vaccine and represented 32% of the postings.

In October, Doria said vaccination would be mandatory in his state, and Bolsonaro's health minister, Eduardo Pazuello, announced that the country had agreed to purchase CoronaVac doses produced locally.

The president quickly responded that he would not allow the import of vaccines from China. Though the health regulator later gave permission for Butantan to import 6 million doses, on Thursday the president said on his weekly live program that he would not buy the vaccine and that the governor should "find someone else to buy your vaccine."

On Friday, Vice President Hamilton Mourao told the magazine *Veja* that "of course" the country will buy the Butantan-Sinovac vaccine. Bolsonaro immediately responded that he is the one with the power and he won't spend on any vaccine that is not approved by the Brazilian health regulator.

Brazil has reported more than 5.5 million confirmed cases of coronavirus infections, and about 160,000 people have died from COVID-19, the disease that can be caused by the virus. While the spread of the virus has begun slowing, public health experts warn people not to let their guard down.

Health professionals are also speaking out in an effort to shore up support for vaccines.

"Vaccination en masse with high coverage would be the only mechanism we have to control the epidemic, at least in the medium-term," Jesem Orellana, an epidemiology researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a scientific research institution, said in a written response to questions. "We have failed over the past eight months with non-pharmacological measures."

Dr. Paulo A Lotufo, a University of Sao Paulo epidemiologist, said national immunization programs have been well-received by the Brazilian public, which has seen the positive impact of vaccinations, including against meningitis and polio.

"The population will take the vaccine," Lotufo predicted in a Skype interview. "More than 90% of the population will vaccinate."

## US vote to shape how world warms as climate pact exit looms

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

What happens on election day will to some degree determine how much more hot and nasty the world's climate will likely get, experts say.

The day after the presidential election, the United States formally leaves the 2015 Paris agreement to fight climate change. A year ago, President Donald Trump's administration notified the United Nations that America is exiting the climate agreement. And because of technicalities in the international pact, Nov. 4 is the earliest a country can withdraw.

The U.S., the world's second biggest carbon polluter, will be the first country to quit the 189-nation agreement, which has countries make voluntary, ever-tighter goals to curb emissions of heat-trapping gases. The only mandatory parts of the agreement cover tracking and reporting of carbon pollution, say U.S. officials who were part of the Paris negotiations.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has pledged to put the country immediately back in the Paris agreement, which doesn't require congressional approval. Experts say three months — from November to the January inauguration — with the U.S. out of the climate pact will not change the world, but four years will.

If America pulls back from Paris and stronger carbon cutting efforts, some nations are less likely to cut

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back too, so the withdrawal's impact will be magnified, said scientists and climate negotiators.

Because the world is so close to feared climate tipping points and on a trajectory to pass a temperature limit goal, climate scientists said the U.S. pullout will have noticeable effects.

"Losing most of the world's coral reefs is something that would be hard to avoid if the U.S. remains out of the Paris process," said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of the Breakthrough Institute in Oakland, California. "At the margins, we would see a world of more extreme heat waves."

If the U.S. remains out of the climate pact, today's children are "going to see big changes that you and I don't see for ice, coral and weather disasters," said Stanford University's Rob Jackson.

Because the two presidential candidates have starkly different positions on climate change policy, the election could have profound repercussions for the world's approach to the problem, according to more than a dozen experts.

"That election could be a make or break point for international climate policy," said Niklas Hohne, a climate scientist at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

In pulling out of the agreement, Trump has questioned climate science and has rolled back environmental initiatives that he called too restrictive in cutting future carbon pollution from power plants and cars.

American carbon emissions dropped by less than one percent a year from 2016 to 2019, until plunging probably temporarily during the pandemic slowdown, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. More than 60 countries cut emissions by higher percentages than the U.S. in that time period, according to international data.

"Other countries around the world are obsessed with the Paris Climate Accord, which shackles economies and has done nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in an email. "President Trump understands economic growth and environmental protection do not need to conflict."

"We've also done our fair share" to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday in the Maldives, a climate-vulnerable country. "We stand amongst industrialized nations as a beacon, and we did it not through state-driven, forced rulesets, but rather through creativity and innovation and good governance."

In the last debate and on his website, Biden pledged to set a goal of zero net carbon emissions from the U.S. by 2050, meaning the country would not put more greenhouse gases into the air than it takes out through trees and other natural and technological sources. Dozens of nations, including top polluting China, have already made similar pledges.

Eleven years ago, the world was on pace to add about another 5 degrees (2.8 degrees Celsius) of warming. But with emission cut pledges from Paris and afterward, the world is facing only about another 2.2 degrees (1.2 degrees Celsius) of warming if countries do what they promise, said Wageningen University's Hohne.

"If Biden wins, the whole world is going to start reorienting toward stepping up its action," said climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the University of Michigan's environment program.

If the U.S. remains out of Paris, countries trying to cut emissions drastically at potentially high costs to local industry may put "border adjustment" fees on climate laggards like America to even the playing field, said Nigel Purvis, a climate negotiator in the Clinton and second Bush administrations. The European Union is already talking about such fees, Purvis said.

Trevor Houser, a climate modeler for the independent Rhodium Group, and the computer simulation research group Climate Action Tracker ran calculations comparing a continuation of the Trump administration's current emission trends to what would happen if Biden worked toward net zero emissions. Houser, who worked briefly in the Obama State Department, found that in the next 10 years a Trump scenario, which includes a moderate economic bounce-back from the pandemic, would emit 6 billion tons (5.4 billion metric tons) more greenhouse gases than the Biden scenario — an 11% difference.

Climate Action Tracker calculated that from reduced U.S. emissions alone in a Biden scenario, the world would be two-tenths of a degree (one-tenth of a degree Celsius) cooler.

"Every tenth of a degree counts," said Hohne, a Climate Action Tracker team member. "We are running

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into a catastrophe if we don't do anything."

Other nations will do more to limit carbon pollution if the U.S. is doing so and less if America isn't, said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald. "In terms of leadership, it will make an immense difference," she said.

In Paris, the U.S. was crucial in getting the agreement finished. The rest of the world ended up pledging to reduce roughly five tons of carbon pollution for every ton the U.S. promised to cut, according to Houser and Breakthrough's Hausfather.

Nations also adopted a goal to limit future warming to just a few more tenths of a degree from now. A UN panel of scientists in 2018 said there was only a slim chance of reaching the goal, but said it would likely make a huge difference in helping avert more loss of corals, extreme weather and extinctions.

A second Trump win "could remove whatever vanishingly small chance we have of" not shooting past that stringent temperature goal, Hausfather said.

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This story has been corrected to fix the location of Wageningen University. The university is in the Netherlands, not Germany.

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears.

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

## **Bruised and haunted, US holds tight as 2020 campaigns close**

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Just over her mask, Patra Okelo's eyes brimmed with tears when she recalled the instant that a truth about America dawned and her innocence burned away.

One moment on Aug. 11, 2017, she thought the tiki torches blazing in the distance at the University of Virginia were "the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen, lighting up the darkness." Later, on television, she could see the fire more clearly. Hundreds of white supremacists carried those torches, sparking 24 hours of fury and death that transformed Charlottesville into an enduring battle cry of the 2020 presidential election.

"My heart broke that night," Okelo, now 29, said on Saturday, as President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden blitzed across the country to make the closing arguments of their bitter contest to lead the divided nation.

Presidential elections are traditionally moments when Americans get a high-definition look in the mirror. But by the final, frenetic sprint of the 2020 race, the world had long peered into the country's darkest corners and seen a battered and haunted image staring back.

The presidency and control of the Senate are in the balance, but for many, there was something even more urgent. Survival was the immediate goal, both as human beings and as a country whose very name seems aspirational at a time of such division and angst.

The list of threats is long and personal: Coronavirus has killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S., and infections are surging in almost every state. The economy and with it families are suffering from uncertainty. The legacy of slavery ripped through society yet again this year after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis sparked nationwide protests and crackdowns by law enforcement.

Okelo can draw a line from the August night in 2017 when she first saw the torches to the last hours of the 2020 election. She voted for Biden.

On Aug. 12, 2017, in the hours after the torchlight parade, James Alex Fields Jr. plowed his car into a group of protesters on 4th Street and killed activist Heather Heyer. That intersection is now decorated with purple flowers and messages in chalk. Okelo says she has avoided the area ever since.

Trump blamed "both sides" for that conflagration. Earlier this year, he boarded up the White House and used federal forces to protect it from the protests over Floyd's death. And when asked, he has most often



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refused to condemn white supremacy.

Okelo, who is Black, heard when Biden launched his campaign for president with the words, "Charlottesville, Va."

"My younger brother is in danger," Okelo said she has come to realize. "So I waited in line today, and I voted as I did."

But the connection between 2017 and now also is marked by contrasts.

A year ago, Americans were riveted by the House impeachment proceedings against Trump for his appeals for political help from Ukraine. The Senate acquitted him at the beginning of 2020, followed by Trump's victory lap and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's show-topping rip of his State of the Union speech.

A campaign that started with more than two dozen Democrats competing for the right to challenge Trump ended with Biden the party's nominee, and one of his rivals, California Sen. Kamala Harris, as his running mate, the first Black or Indian woman to seek the vice presidency.

It seems like a distant, more innocent time. When Harris announced her own presidential bid nearly two years ago, she did it before nearly 20,000 people attending an outdoor event in her home city of Oakland, California. Campaigning in the West in the race's final week, Harris spoke in Las Vegas to a socially distanced crowd of people sitting on blankets spaced 6 feet apart.

White circles around chairs denote appropriate social distancing.

As for the sound of the 2020 race, car horns have replaced the roar of Democratic crowds.

"Honk if you're fired up! Honk if you're ready to go!" former President Barack Obama has said in the final swing.

On the Republican side, Trump remained energized by large, mostly unmasked crowds in defiance of the advice from his administration's top public health officials.

The president was making a final blur of 10 rallies across battleground states, arguing falsely that the coronavirus was on the wane and falling back on familiar anthems about Hillary Clinton, his vanquished 2016 rival, and building a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

"Tuesday is our big deal as a country!" Trump said on Sunday, as he braved flurries and a stiff wind chill in Michigan. The president is aiming to run up support in the whiter, more rural parts of the state with warnings that a Biden win could be disastrous for the economy.

Down in the polls and at a cash disadvantage, Trump expressed confidence and said of Biden at one point, "I don't think he knows he's losing."

In contrast, Biden's campaign rallies through Michigan, Georgia and Pennsylvania were strictly distanced and often drive-in affairs where mask-wearing is required.

At an Atlanta-area event on Sunday, a Biden staffer stepped to the podium and enforced the rules just before Harris spoke.

"Y'all need to go back to your cars," the aide said. "We are not a Trump rally."

Also defining this campaign at its ragged end is a hovering uncertainty and anxiety. Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses to Biden, and his exhortation to supporters to "stand back and stand by" the polls to make sure the vote is legit sounded to some like a call to intimidate voters and elections officials.

Images and reports, such as a get-out-the-vote rally in North Carolina on Saturday that ended with law enforcement pepper spraying the crowd, kept the country on edge. State police said participants were blocking the roadway and had no authorization to be there. In Texas, Trump supporters in cars and trucks swarmed around a Biden campaign bus at high speed on a highway.

The collective anxiety was taking a toll.

Mary Williams, a Democrat from Port Huron, Michigan, said she was "so nervous" because she remembered feeling confident about Hillary Clinton's chances before her stunning loss to Trump in 2016.

"I jump up in the middle of my sleep," Williams said.

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Associated Press writers Alex Jaffe traveling with Biden, Zeke Miller with Trump, and Kathleen Ronayne with Harris contributed to this report.

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

## **Under Trump, citizenship and visa agency focuses on fraud**

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The head of the agency handling citizenship and visa applications was surprised when he faced blowback for cutting a reference to the U.S. being a “nation of immigrants” in its mission statement. The son of a Peruvian immigrant added language about “protecting Americans” instead.

L. Francis Cissna argued that America is indisputably a nation of immigrants but that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ mission statement wasn’t the place to say so. Joseph Edlow, who now oversees the agency, said he hasn’t thought about the 2018 kerfuffle, but it crystallized for many how the Trump administration has changed the government’s approach to legal immigration.

USCIS, established with the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, is emphasizing fraud detection, enforcement and vetting those seeking to work, live or become U.S. citizens. Applicants, attorneys and employees call it overkill, while immigration critics say it’s overdue. New Trump administration rules range from making asylum protections more difficult to get to disqualifying more low-income applicants from green cards.

Processing times are longer, and the agency’s backlog of cases stands at 5 million. Making it tougher to get permission to live and work in America has had consequences for USCIS itself: its roughly \$5 billion annual budget is funded almost entirely by application fees, which have dwindled with the stricter rules. Financial pressures mounted this summer as USCIS narrowly averted furloughs for 70% of its roughly 20,000 employees.

Curbing legal immigration has been a priority for President Donald Trump as he’s reshaped the immigration system, arguably more than any predecessor. He’s thrilled supporters with an “America first” message and infuriated critics who call his signature domestic issue insular, xenophobic and even racist.

Before the election, The Associated Press is examining several Trump immigration policies, including restrictions on international students, a retreat from America’s humanitarian role, a virtual shutdown of asylum and now curbing legal immigration.

Trump failed to get Congress to support cuts to the system of immigrants bringing over relatives, but Stephen Miller, a top Trump adviser, said moving to a more “merit based” system, based on skills, would be a priority if the president is reelected.

Democrat Joe Biden offers a sharp contrast: preserve family-based immigration and “streamline” naturalization for green-card holders. He wants a path to citizenship for about 11 million people in the U.S. illegally, which would require congressional support.

Miller told the AP that USCIS was plagued by a “huge amount of fraud” and its workforce “came to see itself as a representative of the benefit-seeker rather than the representative of the American people.”

“This administration has undertaken a thorough revamping of the agency to restore its congressional mission of ensuring that benefits are only awarded to those who are genuinely eligible under law and that, ensuring in admitting them, no harm is done to our economic or national security interests,” he said.

Some critics say USCIS hasn’t provided enough evidence of widespread fraud. Even Louis D. Crocetti Jr., first director of USCIS’ anti-fraud unit who supports Trump’s policies and calls fraud common, says the agency should release more findings.

“If you don’t do that, how can you really justify getting the millions of dollars and continuing your operation?” said Crocetti, who retired in 2011.

The changes are evident in USCIS offices. Workers who decide on citizenship and permanent residency applications in the San Diego office saw their workload grow about 20% when officials ordered all applicants for employment-based green cards be interviewed.

Edlow said the blanket interview requirement has been scrapped and whether such applicants are called in depends on the case.

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The agency is bringing back Trump's rule that dramatically expands criteria for denying green cards to those receiving taxpayer-funded benefits. The U.S. Supreme Court decided in a 5-4 vote in January that the policy could take effect, but enforcement was briefly halted by a federal judge due to the coronavirus.

Processing times for employment-based green cards jumped to 14.5 months in an 11-month period ending Aug. 31, up from 6.8 months in the 2016 fiscal year. For citizenship, it rose to 9.1 months from 5.6 months.

An analysis of all visa categories by the American Immigration Lawyers Association found long waits doubled to 10 months in the 2019 fiscal year from five years earlier.

Natividad Rodriguez, 85, has been waiting since July 2019 for a citizenship interview, the final step before the oath. The Chicago woman and Mexican native had hoped to vote this year.

"We have been waiting a long time," said daughter Ana Maria Fuentes, who helped her mother apply. "It's too much time."

In their defense, administration officials note they approved more than 800,000 citizenship applications in fiscal 2019, the highest since 2008.

But the administration also is trying to reduce applications. For example, USCIS last year started requiring that no spaces on forms be left blank, even if a question doesn't apply, like a middle name. Agency officials say employees were taking too much time filling in incomplete applications.

Blank spaces have led to rejections, attorneys say. An American Immigration Lawyers Association survey this year found nearly 200 examples nationwide. Applications also were rejected for writing "none" or "not applicable" instead of "N/A," which most instructions said to use.

The administration checks up on those who clear the hurdles. On a recent afternoon, all cubicles in the anti-fraud wing of the USCIS San Diego office were empty because its nine investigators were knocking on visa-holders' doors, including one who raised flags because the spouse was living in Georgia.

Nationwide, anti-fraud unit staffing has roughly doubled to about 2,000 under Trump, from less than 1,000. The unit projects 249,335 requests to investigate fraud in fiscal 2021, up from 119,424 in 2016. Edlow says checking if people are "actually married when they say they are" or are working at the job they listed is "an investment in the safety and security of this country."

As costs from anti-fraud work rose, agency revenue took a hit after Trump ended the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which shields young people from deportation, and Temporary Protected Status, given to 400,000 people escaping natural disasters and civil strife.

Fiscal challenges came to a head in May when USCIS threatened furloughs to tackle a projected \$1.2 billion shortfall. The agency didn't need the money, Edlow said, because application fees rebounded more than expected as offices reopened in June from coronavirus shutdowns and contracts were reviewed for cost savings.

USCIS has been without a Senate-confirmed director since Cissna left in May 2019 in a purge of Homeland Security leaders. Attorneys have challenged the legitimacy of acting Homeland Security leaders in a bid to block new USCIS rules, with mixed results.

A judge in September halted a 20% average increase in visa and citizenship fees, saying in part that two top Homeland Security officials were appointed illegally. Edlow, USCIS deputy director of policy, has been running operations since February.

While some agency employees support the focus on increased vetting, others say some changes are unnecessary and may discourage people from seeking legal status.

"Our job is to keep the doors open but safely secured. The way that it is being administered now, it doesn't seem like the doors are open," said Gary Thurman, an employee in Missouri speaking as vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 3928 South.

Edlow said he's focused on better training and technology, including a transition to electronic files.

"Is it going to happen overnight? No, it's not," Edlow said. "I do want to get back to a point where we're flush with money."

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Tareen reported from Chicago.

## Anti-France protests continue, as Macron seeks understanding

By MUHAMMAD FAROOQ Associated Press

KARACHI (AP) — Hundreds of protesters in Pakistan on Sunday burned effigies of France's leader and chanted anti-French slogans, as President Emmanuel Macron tried to send a message of understanding to Muslims around the world.

Smaller demonstrations in Lebanon, Turkey and India followed on anti-France protests across the Muslim world last week that were mostly led by Islamist groups.

The renewed protests came after President Macron's interview late Saturday in which he said that he understood the shock Muslims felt at caricatures depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Macron was speaking with the Qatar-based Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera, where he also defended freedoms of expression and France's secular values.

Macron's office said the interview was aimed at clarifying misunderstandings around France's position and the president's words which they say have been taken out of context.

"I have never said that," Macron told the Al-Jazeera interviewer, explaining that some false translations of his words in the media showed him to support the cartoons mocking Prophet Muhammad. "Those are lies."

Macron explained that all religions are subject to the freedom of expression and "these drawings."

"I understand and respect that people can be shocked by these cartoons," he said. "But I will never accept that someone can justify the use of physical violence because of these cartoons. And I will always defend freedom of speech in my country, of thought, of drawing."

The interview set off a storm on social media, as many argued the Qatari station erred by giving space to the French President, whom they said failed to apologize for offending Muslims. Some criticized Macron for choosing Al-Jazeera, a station that has been at the center of political disputes between Arab Gulf nations and Turkey and viewed by many as giving airtime to hardliners and Islamist groups, outlawed in many countries in the Middle East.

But for others, Macron's appearance on Al-Jazeera was hailed as a success of the protest and boycott campaigns, which have forced the French president to address Muslims through an Arabic-speaking channel.

The protests in Muslim-majority nations over the last week, and calls for boycotts of French products, began initially after Macron eulogized a French teacher in Paris who was decapitated for showing caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class. Two attacks followed on a group of worshippers in a church in Nice, and a Greek priest in Lyon.

Islamist groups and hardliners around the Muslim world have rallied their supporters against the caricatures and the French government's staunch secularist stance, keeping up protests over the last week targeting Macron.

On Sunday in the Pakistani city of Karachi, hundreds of supporters of the main Islamist party, Jaamat-e-Islami, set an effigy of Macron on fire. The crowd of about 500 chanted against Macron and called for the boycott of French products.

The crowd, which was smaller in number after larger rallies over the past days, marched toward the French Consulate in the city while security cordoned off the area.

Earlier Sunday in Karachi, Shiite students marched for three kilometers (1.8 miles) chanting and pledging to sacrifice their lives for the honor of Islam and its prophet. Some 500 students, including a couple hundred women, dragged French flags on the floor and carried pictures of Macron. One banner depicted Macron's face with a big cross.

"We condemn blasphemy of Islam and Prophet Muhammad by French President," read a slogan scribbled on a French flag.

The well-organized crowd wearing face masks were chanting praise for Prophet Muhammad.

In central Pakistani city of Multan, hundreds of merchants rallied in a demonstration to call for a boycott of French products. The crowd also burned an effigy of Macron and chanted: "Muslims cannot tolerate blasphemy of their prophet" and "the civilized world should give proof of being civilized."

In Lebanon's capital of Beirut, a dozen protesters marched to the French Embassy in the Lebanese



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capital, raising banners that read: "Anything but Prophet Muhammad," and chanted in defense of Islam. Security was tight around the embassy.

In Ahmedabad, a city in India's Gujarat state, protesters pasted photographs of Macron onto streets overnight, leaving them for pedestrians and passing vehicles to go over on Sunday.

Anti-France protests were held by Muslim groups on Friday in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, and Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh state.

Islamist groups on Sunday also held a rally in Istanbul.

There has been tension between France and Turkey after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan questioned his French counterpart's mental condition while criticizing Macron's attitude toward Islam and Muslims.

Associated Press writers Angela Charlton in Paris; Sarah El Deeb in Beirut; Asim Tnveer in Multan, Pakistan, Ashok Sharma in Delhi contributed to this report.

## UK says 4-week coronavirus lockdown may have to last longer

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A new national lockdown in England may have to last longer than the planned four weeks if coronavirus infection rates don't fall quickly enough, a senior government minister said Sunday.

The lockdown announced Saturday by Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to run from Thursday until Dec. 2. Johnson says it's needed to stop hospitals from becoming overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients within weeks.

Cabinet minister Michael Gove said it was the government's "fervent hope" that the lockdown would end on time, but that could not be guaranteed.

"With a virus this malignant, and with its capacity to move so quickly, it would be foolish to predict with absolute certainty what will happen in four weeks' time," he told Sky News. "We're going to review it on the 2nd of December but we're always driven by what the data says."

Under the new restrictions, bars and restaurants can only offer take-out, non-essential shops must close and people will only be able to leave home for a short list of reasons including exercise. Hairdressers, gyms, golf courses, swimming pools and bowling alleys are among venues that must shut down, and foreign holidays are barred.

Unlike during the U.K.'s first three-month coronavirus lockdown earlier this year, schools, universities, construction sites and manufacturing businesses will stay open.

Britain has the worst virus death toll in Europe, with more than 46,700 dead. It passed 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases on Saturday and confirmed another 23,254 new infections on Sunday.

Like other European countries, virus cases in the U.K. began to climb after lockdown measures were eased in the summer and people began to return to workplaces, schools, universities and social life. In recent weeks, new infections have been soaring across the continent, especially in Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Spain and the U.K.

Johnson had hoped regional restrictions introduced in October, mostly in northern England, would be enough to push the numbers of new infections down. But government scientific advisers predict that on the outbreak's current trajectory, the demand for hospital beds will exceed the capacity by the first week of December, even if temporary hospitals are set up again.

"Unless we act, we could see deaths in this country running at several thousand a day," Johnson said as he announced the lockdown during a televised news conference on Saturday evening.

But owners of pubs, restaurants, theaters and gyms all say the measures will be devastating.

A government program that has paid the wages of millions of furloughed employees during the pandemic has been extended during the new lockdown. Many businesses say that is not enough, especially in the arts, where most people work as freelancers.

Mark Davyd, chief executive of the Music Venue Trust, urged the government to offer the live events

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industry further financial support, as has been done in France and Germany.

"We look forward to urgent details from ministers on the financial package that will protect businesses and livelihoods in this vital, world-leading British industry," he said.

Also Sunday, the government and Transport for London struck a deal to keep buses and subways running in the capital, where passenger numbers have collapsed because of the pandemic. The mix of grants and loans worth 1.8 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion) is earmarked to keep the system operating until the end of March.

Under the new restrictions, places of worship can stay open for private prayer and funerals, but not for communal services. That has drawn criticism from England's top two Roman Catholic clergy, Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, who say the suspension would cause "deep anguish."

"Faith communities have played a vital role in sustaining personal, spiritual and mental health and encouraging vital charitable activities" during the pandemic, they said. "That critical service towards the common good of all is created and sustained by communal worship."

The new lockdown needs Parliament's approval and a vote is scheduled for Wednesday. Some members of Johnson's Conservative Party oppose tighter restrictions because of the economic damage they inflict, but the main opposition Labour Party says it will vote for the new lockdown.

The restrictions will apply to England. Other parts of the U.K. govern their own public health measures, with Wales and Northern Ireland already effectively in lockdown and Scotland under a set of tough regional restrictions.

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

## France: Suspect in priest's shooting freed, search widens

By ANGELA CHARLTON and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — French police on Sunday released an initial suspect in the shooting of a Greek Orthodox priest and widened their search for the gunman who critically wounded the priest as he closed the door to his official residence at a church in the city of Lyon.

The Lyon prosecutor's office said a man who was arrested shortly after Saturday's shooting was released after they found no evidence of his involvement, suggesting that the clergyman's assailant remained at large.

The priest remained in critical condition after being shot with a hunting rifle, said a police official, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to police policy.

The Greek Orthodox Holy Diocese of France identified the victim as the Rev. Nikolaos Kakavelakis, and said he was scheduled to return soon to Greece after his time working at the Lyon church.

"We pray for a speedy recovery and unequivocally condemn all forms of violence," it said.

The motive for the shooting remains unclear. Anti-terrorism prosecutors are not investigating the case, and the Lyon prosecutor opened an attempted murder investigation.

Police cordons in the vicinity of the church, located in a residential area of central Lyon, were removed and the search area was widened to the broader Lyon area, the national police service said.

France has been under high security alert after the killing of three people at a Nice church on Thursday, amid global tensions over cartoons of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad published in a French newspaper. The French prime minister has promised more protection for religious sites.

It also came amid tensions within the Greek Orthodox community in Lyon. The priest, a Greek citizen, had had a long-running legal dispute with a former monk who was convicted of defamation, according to French media reports.

The head of the Greek Orthodox Church in France, Emmanuel Adamakis, told French radio station Europe 1 that Kakavelakis was no longer conducting services in Lyon and "had been asked to return to Greece."

The attack appeared to have taken place in a small courtyard in the back of the church, where the priest had been living in an official church apartment, Adamakis said.

Antoine Callot, the pastor at another Greek Orthodox church in Lyon, told The Associated Press that the city's Greek Orthodox community has not received any threats, but said he immediately asked police for security protection at his church after Saturday's shooting.

## French churches honor Nice attack victims; 6 detained

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Churches around France held Sunday services honoring three people killed in an Islamic extremist attack at Notre Dame Basilica in the city of Nice that pushed the country into high security alert, while police questioned six suspects in the case.

Nice Archbishop Andre Marceau was preparing for a special nighttime service in the basilica to purify it following Thursday's fatal knife attack, and then to pay homage to the victims and to mark All Saints' Day, when many Christians around the world honor the dead.

Priests in the Saint-Sulpice Church in Paris and elsewhere in France mentioned the attack during their All Saints' services, which were exceptionally allowed to go ahead despite a new monthlong virus lockdown that started Friday in France. Riot police or other security forces were stationed at some prominent religious sites.

Authorities have labeled the church killings an act of Islamist terrorism. They took place amid global tensions around cartoons published by a French newspaper mocking the Prophet Muhammad, which deeply offend Muslims. French imams and other Muslims were among the many who denounced the Nice attack as having nothing to do with their faith, and called for calm.

The three victims were 55-year-old church warden Vincent Loques, a father of two described by parishioners and nearby merchants as "nice to everyone"; churchgoer Nadine Devillers, 60; and Brazilian-born Simone Barreto Silva, 44, Brazilian media said Silva, a mother of three, moved to France to join a dance group led by her sister, worked in elder care and dreamed of traveling the world in a food truck.

Investigators in France, Tunisia and Italy are trying to determine the motive of chief suspect Ibrahim Issaoui, a 21-year-old Tunisian who transited through Italy last month en route to France, and whether he acted alone.

Issaoui is in critical condition in a French hospital after being wounded by police during his arrest and hasn't yet been questioned, according to a judicial official.

Five other people were also in custody Sunday after being detained in Nice and the nearby town of Grasse, the official said. They are between 25 and 63-years-old and were spotted on video surveillance or detained in homes searched by police as part of the investigation, said the official, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to judicial policy.

Their connection to the attack remains unclear. A previously unknown Tunisian extremist group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack. Tunisian and French authorities are investigating whether the claim is legitimate.

## Races for governor take top billing in Missouri, Montana

By JIM SALTER and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri Gov. Mike Parson steadfastly refused to mandate mask-wearing even as the coronavirus spread across his state this year, telling a group of cattlemen in July, "You don't need government to tell you to wear a dang mask. If you want to wear a dang mask, wear a mask."

In late September, the Republican governor and his wife both tested positive for the coronavirus, and COVID-19 is now spreading rapidly throughout the state, with rising cases and deaths.

Parson, who took office in 2018 after Eric Greitens resigned, said he did not have symptoms and has since returned to campaigning. His Democratic challenger, state Auditor Nicole Galloway, is emphasizing pandemic response and health coverage as key issues in one of the most contested of the 11 races for governor across the U.S. on Nov. 3.

Galloway's message has been gaining traction as the virus spread worsens. The seven-day rolling aver-

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age of daily new cases in Missouri has risen from 1,528 per day on Oct. 17 to 2,247 as of Saturday.

In St. Louis, Mark DuBro, 64, a retired executive chef and a Republican, said Parson's handling of the virus persuaded him to cast his ballot for Galloway.

"I think he was a little lax, not as on top of it as he might have been," he said.

The race is the best hope for Democrats to flip a governor's seat this year. Republicans hold the governor's office in 26 states and are hoping to retake the top job in Montana, where Democrats have held it for the past 16 years.

Which party holds the governor's office could be especially consequential over the next few years. In the majority of states, though not the ones with the most competitive races this year, governors have a role in the process of drawing congressional and state legislative district maps starting next year.

The expanded conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court could restrict abortion access and potentially upend former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. If so, it would be up to state legislatures and governors across the country to set policies in those areas.

Governors also are key players in deciding whether to impose mask mandates, business restrictions, social gathering limits or travel restrictions in response to the coronavirus.

In Missouri, the handling of the virus has been a key consideration for 52-year-old Yolanda Thompson of St. Louis, a secretary in a doctors' office who voted for Galloway in early voting. She said Parson and some other governors have not handled the pandemic properly.

"If they knew, they should have responded accordingly," she said. "Because they knew this was coming and they knew the impact that was going to come."

Vincent Harris, a writer and Republican who lives in rural Trenton, said he was voting for Joe Biden for president but still learning toward supporting Parson. Like other Republicans this year, Parson is emphasizing a law-and-order approach after the protests against police brutality and racial inequality.

For Harris, 54, the difference between Trump and Parson is character.

"I like to think that deep down inside, there's a much more rock steady individual," he said, adding that Parson "might be capable of ratcheting back and making more intelligent assessments."

Most of the governors' seats up for election this year are considered safe for the incumbent party. Republicans are expected to keep the positions in solidly Republican Indiana and North Dakota, as well as in New Hampshire and Vermont, where Democrats control the legislatures.

Republicans also are expected to keep control of the executive branch in Utah, where Gov. Gary Herbert is not seeking re-election after more than a decade in office. There, the race is so civil that the candidates, Republican Spencer Cox and Democrat Chris Peterson, have appeared in a video to say they respect each other even though they disagree.

Democrats are likely to keep seats in Delaware and Washington. The race in North Carolina, a swing state in presidential elections, might be a little more suspenseful, although polls have shown incumbent Democrat Roy Cooper ahead of Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest.

In governor's races, many of the attack ads are funded by each party's governors association. According to an Associated Press review of reports filed with the IRS, the Republican group outraised the Democrats from Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, but the Democrats had spent more.

In Montana, a state without any major media markets, campaigns and the parties' governors groups had poured at least \$24 million into the race through September.

The governor's race there is the best chance for Republicans to gain control of a seat now held by a Democrat. While Democrats have held the executive branch for the last 16 years, Republicans control the Legislature.

U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte, a Republican, is running for an open seat against Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney, a Democrat whose first elected job came in 1976.

Republicans are portraying Cooney as an entrenched politician and liberal who would raise taxes. For Angie McClafflin, who moved to Helena from Oregon in 2017, the Trump connection is the key to her support for the Republican.

"There's just a lot of things that need to get addressed, and Democrats want to take away gun rights



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and they want to take away all of our freedoms," said McClafin, 43, who is out of work on disability.

Democrats say Gianforte, an entrepreneur who has spent millions on the election, would curtail access to public lands and institute a sales tax in Montana, one of five states without one.

Mark Paulson, of Kalispell, used to consider himself an independent and regularly split the ticket. But in early voting this year, the 70-year-old civil designer said he voted for only Democrats.

In the governor's race, he said Gianforte's financial support of a Montana museum dedicated to creationist beliefs was a big problem.

"He's a creationist. I'm an amateur astronomer," Paulson said. "For somebody to basically believe that the world was 6,000 years old in this day and age is just stupid."

Mulvihill reported from Davenport, Iowa. Summer Ballentine in Columbia, Missouri, and Amy Beth Hanson in Helena, Montana, contributed to this article.

## Experts: Police brutality, racism pushing Black anxiety

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — The events of 2020 already had Eddie Hall on edge.

Then, the troubles of a nation in turmoil landed on Hall's doorstep in suburban Detroit in September when racist graffiti was scrawled on his pickup truck and shots were fired into his home after his family placed a Black Lives Matter sign in their front window.

"I'm in combat mode. I'm protecting my family," Hall, a 52-year-old Black man from Warren, told The Associated Press.

Some experts say police brutality, the coronavirus pandemic that has taken disproportionate physical and financial tolls on Black people, and other issues around race have increased anxiety levels among African Americans, like Hall.

The attacks on Hall's home were investigated as a hate crime and 24-year-old white neighbor, Michael Frederick Jr., eventually was arrested and charged with ethnic intimidation and other crimes.

"We, as Black people, have all of the normal human stressors — work, family, finances — and then we're inundated with racial pressure at all levels," said Jessica Graham-Lopresti, assistant professor of psychology at Suffolk University and co-founder of Massachusetts-based BARE — Black Advocacy Resilience Empowerment.

"This idea that, for Black people, we don't feel — currently in this country — that we have the ability to control our environment and protect ourselves and our families," she said. "We could still be gunned down in the street. That creates anxiety. That creates stress."

In May, mostly white men and women protesting Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's orders that closed many businesses and services to stem the spread of COVID-19 openly carried rifles and handguns into the state Capitol.

As many activists take to the streets to maintain public political pressure for change, concern about personal safety is at an all-time high, said Frederick Gooding Jr., an African American studies professor at Texas Christian University.

"Especially in the aftermath of Kyle Rittenhouse walking untouched in full view with an assault rifle AFTER shooting another civilian dead," Gooding added.

Rittenhouse, a white 17-year-old from northern Illinois, is accused of fatally shooting two white protesters and wounding a third in August in Kenosha, Wisconsin, during demonstrations following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man. Rittenhouse was among a number of armed white men who converged on the city, claiming they were protecting property from arson and theft.

After the gunfire, with his AR-15-style rifle over his shoulder and his hands in the air, Rittenhouse walked toward police vehicles that kept going past him, even as a witness shouted, "He just shot them!" Police Chief Daniel Miskinis has explained the response as officers dealing with a chaotic scene.

Sharon Bethune, 56, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, said the events in Kenosha angered her and other Black

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people.

"This is mind-boggling," said Bethune, a retiree who managed government accounts for the Environmental Protection Agency. "I've never seen anything like this."

For Black professionals and those in the middle class, the anxiety appears to be more pronounced, said Alford Young Jr., a sociology professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

They wonder "how we got to this moment of national leadership after the civil rights movement," Young said. "There is just extreme anxiety and frustration that people would not have imagined that the kinds of issues surfacing now would have followed an Obama presidency."

Many working class Black people see the current political landscape with less dread and more "the way it's always been," he added.

Candace Hall, Eddie Hall's wife, said Republican President Donald Trump shoulders part of the blame for how many African Americans are feeling.

Trump, who claims to have done more for Black people than his predecessors, has been accused of using race to stoke division. He has encouraged police to use a heavy-handed approach on people protesting against racism and police brutality. During his first debate with Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, Trump refused to condemn white supremacy.

"He's opened up Pandora's box with racism and anger and telling police to beat people up," said Candace Hall, 55, also an Army veteran.

Ciaran O'Connor, spokesman for New York-based Braver Angels, which seeks to depolarize American politics, said people need to talk to each other, not retreat from tough conversations, as they fight for what they believe in.

"We believe in the power of conversation if you are trying to persuade people in a way to humanize people," O'Connor said. "If we're gonna bring positive change, we're going to have to find ways to have these conversations."

## **Election 2020 Today: Trump leans into rallies; TV lawyers up**

Here's what's happening Sunday in Election 2020, two days until Election Day:

**ON THE TRAIL:** President Donald Trump will visit the battleground states of Iowa, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. Democratic challenger Joe Biden will be in Pennsylvania.

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

**TODAY'S TOP STORIES:**

**TRUMP HOPES RALLIES MEAN VOTES:** Trump is counting on his ability to turn out big crowds to translate into votes as he wraps up the final days of the campaign with a blitz of rallies. Trump will hold five campaign rallies in five states on Sunday taking his pitch to voters in the battleground states of Iowa, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. The sprint comes after Trump hosted four rallies in the pivotal state of Pennsylvania on Saturday and with plans by the Trump campaign for seven more rallies on Monday.

**GOP TRIES TO SAVE SENATE MAJORITY:** Senate Republicans are fighting to save their majority and they're making a final election push against the onslaught of Democratic challengers. From New England to the Deep South, from the heartland to the West and even in Alaska, states that once were off limits to Democrats are now hotbeds of the backlash to Trump and his allies on Capitol Hill. Fueling the campaigns are the Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, shifting regional demographics and, in some areas, simply the chance to turn the page on the divisive political climate. Control of the Senate can make or break a presidency.

**NETWORKS LAWYER UP FOR ELECTION NIGHT:** TV networks are adding experts in election law to their election night coverage teams to prepare for legal challenges or irregularities that may come up during the vote. There's been a flurry of court cases involving how long states can count votes that have already reached the Supreme Court. CBS expert David Becker says part of his job will be to bolster public confidence in the vote.

**NC VOTER RALLY ENDS WITH PEPPER SPRAY:** A rally to promote voting ended with North Carolina

police pepper spraying and arresting attendants. Police in Graham, N.C., said rally organizers didn't have permission to block the roadways near the Alamance County's courthouse and they released pepper spray toward the ground after repeated requests to move from the street. Authorities later arrested eight people. Rally organizer Reverend Greg Drumwright said the group had permission to be at the courthouse and that police escorted the group onto the roadways.

AP EXPLAINS: As it has for more than 170 years, The Associated Press will count the nation's vote in real time on Election Day and report the results of presidential, congressional and state elections on Nov. 3 and beyond. Read more about how that's done.

ICYMI:

After year of disruption, America set to choose a path ahead

'We need you': GOP hunts for new voters in Trump territory

Obama criticizes Trump in scathing, personal terms

## Supreme Court changes fuel moves to protect abortion access

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

A vast swath of West Texas has been without an abortion clinic for more than six years. Planned Parenthood plans to change that with a health center it opened recently in Lubbock.

It's a vivid example of how abortion-rights groups are striving to preserve nationwide access to the procedure even as a reconfigured Supreme Court — with the addition of conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett — may be open to new restrictions.

Planned Parenthood has made recent moves to serve more women in Missouri and Kentucky, and other groups are preparing to help women in other Republican-controlled states access abortion if bans are imposed.

"Abortion access in these states now faces its gravest ever threat," said Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood's president. She said the new health center in Lubbock "is an example of our commitment to our patients to meet them where they are."

The clinic opened on Oct. 23 in a one-story building that had been a medical office and was renovated after Planned Parenthood purchased it. To avoid protests and boycotts that have beset some previous expansion efforts, Planned Parenthood kept details, including the clinic's location, secret until the opening was announced.

Planned Parenthood says the health center will start providing abortions — via surgery and medication — sometime next year. Meanwhile, it is offering other services, including cancer screenings, birth control and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Planned Parenthood closed its previous clinic in Lubbock, a city of 255,000 people, in 2013 after the Texas Legislature slashed funding for family planning services and imposed tough restrictions on abortion clinics.

That law led to the closure of more than half the state's 41 abortion clinics before the Supreme Court struck down key provisions in 2016. There were no clinics left providing abortion in a region of more than 1 million people stretching from Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle south to Lubbock and the oil patch cities of Odessa and Midland.

Women in Lubbock faced a 310-mile (500-kilometer) drive to the nearest abortion clinic in Fort Worth.

Anti-abortion activists have been mobilizing to prevent the return of abortion services to Lubbock — and are not giving up even with the new clinic's opening.

"Lubbock must not surrender to the abortion industry," said Kimberlyn Schwartz, a West Texas native who attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock and is now communications director for Texas Right to Life.

Her organization has backed a petition drive trying to persuade the City Council to pass an ordinance declaring Lubbock a "sanctuary city for the unborn." Abortion opponents hope that designation would lead to either enforcement efforts or lawsuits seeking to block abortion services.

Thus far, the City Council has declined to adopt the ordinance, but activists say they have enough signatures to place it on the ballot in a local referendum.

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Texas is one of several red states where Planned Parenthood has sought to expand abortion access. Earlier this year, its health center in Louisville, Kentucky, began providing abortions after obtaining a license from the newly installed administration of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear.

For the previous four years, anti-abortion Republican Gov. Matt Bevin's administration refused to issue a license. The change doubled the number of abortion providers in Kentucky from one to two.

Dr. Kara Cadwallader, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for Kentucky and Indiana, said the resumption of abortion services in Louisville had gone smoothly. Anti-abortion protesters routinely appear outside the building, she said, but they were a steady presence even when the center did not provide abortions.

She and her colleagues are bracing for a new wave of anti-abortion legislation from Kentucky's Legislature, where the GOP holds enough seats to override possible vetoes from Beshear.

"We'll once again be under siege," Cadwallader said.

In October 2019, Planned Parenthood's affiliate in St. Louis opened a large new health center in Fairview Heights, Illinois — about 17 miles (27 kilometers) from its St. Louis clinic. Illinois, where Democrats hold power, has not sought to curtail abortion, and the clinic was intended to provide an extra option for women from Missouri and other nearby Republican-governed states with multiple restrictions.

Missouri, for example, bars the use of telemedicine for abortion services, a policy that has sharply limited the number of medication abortions. Dr. Colleen McNicholas, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for reproductive health services in the St. Louis region, has made clear that medication abortion by telemedicine is available in Illinois.

The Rev. Katherine Ragsdale, who represents many independent abortion providers as president of the National Abortion Federation, said one priority for her members is to make medication abortion more widely available. She also anticipates that it will become more difficult for women to obtain late-term abortions, increasing the need for funding programs that can help pay for travel to clinics that offer those procedures.

Laurie Bertram Roberts is executive director of one such program, the Alabama-based Yellowhammer Fund. She anticipates an increase in the number of low- and middle-income women who will need significant financial help — sometimes topping \$10,000 — to travel to distant clinics if access is curtailed in Alabama.

Bertram Roberts also expects more women to resort to do-it-yourself abortions, now that it's increasingly possible to receive abortion pill drugs by mail.

"We're talking about a huge amount of people who can possibly do stuff at home safely," she said. "We're not going back to the days of back-alley abortions."

## Pre-election virus spike creates concerns for polling places

By RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A surge in coronavirus cases across the country, including in key presidential battleground states, is creating mounting health and logistical concerns for voters, poll workers and political parties ahead of Election Day.

In Iowa, where both presidential campaigns are competing feverishly, county officials said they were preparing for scores of confirmed or potentially infected people to vote curbside. It's an option typically used by disabled people that must be available outside every polling place.

Linn County Supervisor Stacey Walker, in Cedar Rapids, encouraged people to cast their ballot but said they should take safety precautions at polling places to protect themselves and their neighbors.

"We can't afford to have Election Day serve as a superspreading event across the state and country," he said.

At a news conference this past week, Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said his office had distributed 145,000 gloves, 200,000 masks and 11,000 social-distancing markers for use by voters and poll workers.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Tony Evers sought to assure voters in the critical swing state that going to the polls would not be risky, even as officials announced more than 5,000 new confirmed coronavirus cases on Friday.

"For those who are voting in person now, I believe it's safe," Evers said, adding that polling places have



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adequate supplies to protect voters.

Across the country, Republicans worked to downplay any concerns that health risks will keep some of their voters home, after Democrats heavily promoted mail-in and early in-person balloting to their voters.

Republicans are counting on a huge Election Day turnout among their supporters to offset the big leads in early voting among Democrats in states that are pivotal to the presidential race.

"If you were worried about voting at the polls on Election Day, you've probably already voted," said John March, a spokesman for the Republican Party of Virginia.

Like many other states, Iowa this week reported its highest number of average daily new cases and hospitalizations to date.

In Cedar Rapids, public health officials called a news conference Friday to express alarm at the spike in cases in Linn County, including a single-day high reported Thursday of more than 200. They urged residents to avoid gatherings while advising those who visit polling places to wear masks, stay 6 feet apart and wash their hands afterward.

Linn County Auditor Joel Miller said a woman who acknowledged she was positive for coronavirus voted curbside Thursday at a mall where early voting is taking place, the first known infected voter in the county. Poll workers gave her a face shield and gloves and isolated everything she touched, he said.

Several other voters who were awaiting test results or wanted to avoid the line for health reasons also used it, and county auditors were preparing for a major increase in the rarely-used option Tuesday.

Under curbside voting, residents call a phone number for assistance from their vehicle and a bipartisan poll worker team is sent to help them cast ballots.

Miller, 65, said he is concerned about contracting the virus after spending hours this week assisting voters and will get tested again Sunday. He said he was worried about the virus spreading at polling places Tuesday, noting that voters cannot be required to wear masks.

"Heck yes I'm concerned. I'm going to have 500 people working on Tuesday. I don't want it on my conscience that somebody caught COVID at a polling place and got sick," he said. "It could happen. It could happen to me."

County auditors have small full-time staffs and rely on experienced polling place workers to run smooth elections. They say they are worried that any of those workers who test positive before Tuesday will be replaced with less experienced people, which could lead to long lines.

In Davenport, Iowa, Scott County Auditor Roxanna Moritz asked her employees several days ago to self-quarantine to avoid the possibility of catching the virus before Tuesday.

Moritz said she has received several calls this week from people who have tested positive or are hospitalized with coronavirus seeking advice on how to vote. One woman was crying over the situation.

Her staff is working with hospitals to deliver ballots to patients and is promoting curbside voting for those infected at early voting locations and on Election Day. She said curbside voting is labor intensive and risky.

"Some of my poll workers are a little bit concerned because they are older individuals," she said. "Still, I would rather do curbside than have them (voters) go to the polls."

Moritz said she has been relieved by the high number of early voters in her county, which will ease the burden on Election Day. Still, she said she worries that crowded polling places could become a source of spread for the coronavirus.

At a public library in Davenport on Friday, poll workers were sanitizing voting stations and pens between users. People waiting in line outside the library were wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart.

Lenore Benton-Bey, a Davenport retiree, said the socially distanced crowd didn't bother her: "I've got a whole bottle of hand sanitizer in the car," she said.

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Associated Press writers Gretchen Ehlike in Milwaukee; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; and Geoff Mulvihill in Davenport, Iowa, contributed to this report.

**More US patients to have easy, free access to doctor's notes**

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By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

More U.S. patients will soon have free, electronic access to the notes their doctors write about them under a new federal requirement for transparency.

Many health systems are opening up records Monday, the original deadline. At the last minute, federal health officials week gave an extension until April because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Britta Bloomquist of Duluth, Minnesota, has been reading her clinical notes for years, first struggling through red tape and more recently clicking into a secure online patient website.

"It means information about your care can no longer be hidden from you. And you have a say in your care," said Bloomquist, 32, who has a rare type of arthritis that took years to diagnose.

## WHAT'S CHANGING?

Patients have long had a right to their medical records, including doctor notes, but obtaining them could mean filling out requests, waiting for a response and paying fees. A 2016 law said delays and barriers must be removed.

If you already use a patient portal such as MyChart to email your doctor or schedule an appointment, you may soon see new options allowing you to view your doctor's notes and see your test results as soon as they are available. You may get an email explaining where to look, how to share access with a caregiver and how to keep other eyes off your information.

Many people won't notice a change. About 15% of health care systems already are letting patients read doctor notes online without charge. That means about 53 million patients already have access to their doctor's notes.

## WILL THIS HELP ME?

Studies have shown that patients who read their notes understand more about their health, take their medications as prescribed more often and feel more in control of their care.

That's true for Bloomquist. Diagnosed with a rare type of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis, she had extensive surgery to straighten her right leg in 2018. She gets regular drug infusions and sees multiple specialists. It's a lot to remember.

"I've become a health nerd," Bloomquist said. "Reading the notes has kept me on the same page as my providers about what's going on."

## WILL I UNDERSTAND THE JARGON?

You may have to look up terms. Or ask your doctor to translate at your next visit. And doctor's notes tend to use abbreviations. "SOB" means short of breath, by the way. "BS" can mean bowel sounds.

And brace yourself if your weight is an issue.

"I'm a heavy-set person, OK? And their favorite word to use is obese," said Rosie Bartel, 71, of Chilton, Wisconsin. "You have to get used to that. Doctors use that word."

To Bartel, who became more involved in her care after getting an infection in the hospital, reading notes means she's doing what she can to prevent errors and stay healthy.

"I don't have to remember everything said to me in a 15-minute appointment," she said.

## WHAT IF I SPOT AN ERROR?

Patients do find mistakes in their notes and some errors are serious enough to affect their care, research has found.

"A clinician has eyes on thousands of notes, but a patient has eyes only on one, so it has powerful safety implications," said Cait DesRoches, director of OpenNotes, a Boston-based group working for greater access to patient notes.

Bloomquist, the Minnesota patient, learned that it's difficult to fix inaccuracies in her medical record. Some of her notes say her surgery was on her left leg. It was on her right. She said she reported the error several times but it hasn't been fixed.

## ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS?

Psychotherapy notes don't need to be shared with patients. And doctors can hold back a note if they think it will cause physical harm, such as a note about domestic violence if the abuser has access to the

patient's health information.

As for parent access to teenagers' information, state laws vary, DesRoches said. That means some health systems allow parents to see at least some of their teenager's notes, while others do not.

Parents can check with their children's doctors to find out how it works in their states.

WHAT DO DOCTORS THINK?

Some doctors worry this will mean more phone calls from confused patients.

Dr. Marlene Millen of UC San Diego Health, which launched a pilot program for primary care patients in 2018, said that's not her experience.

"I did not get a big bump in questions at all," Millen said.

Many patients aren't interested in their notes and never read them, she said. Others do, but save her time because they arrive for appointments "and already know what the next step in the plan is because they had read the prior note."

UC San Diego Health is opening notes to another 130,000 patients Monday, as more specialists are added. Millen, who's been highly involved in the transition, said it's frustrating the federal deadline was extended just last Thursday.

"We spend all this time getting ready and we could have spent that time doing other things like working on the pandemic," she said.

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## Town built on guns ponders future after Remington plant sale

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

ILION, N.Y. (AP) — Workers at the sprawling Remington factory in this upstate New York village took pride in a local gunmaking tradition stretching back to the days of flintlock rifles. Now they're looking ahead with uncertainty.

Jacquie Sweeney and her husband were among almost 600 workers fired by the company this week, a few months after Remington Outdoor Co. sought bankruptcy protection for the second time in two years.

Successful bidders for the idled plant in bankruptcy proceedings have said they plan to restart at least some production, though details remain scarce.

There are high hopes for a successful reload of the plant that dominates the local economy. But these hopes are tempered by questions about how many workers will come back, and when.

"My husband, he's looking for work, just like everybody else. And I plan on going back to college unless I find a job before I start that up," said Sweeney, recording secretary for the local unit of the United Mine Workers of America. "That's all we can really do. We can't sit around and wait for forever."

It's common for people here to say that Ilion is Remington and Remington is Ilion. Company founder Eliphalet Remington started making flintlock rifles on his father's forge near here in 1816, and the Ilion factory site dates to 1828. Though the company moved its headquarters to Madison, North Carolina, the old factory dominates — literally and figuratively — a village that has long depended on workers making rifles and shotguns to power the economy.

Union signs reading "United We Stand with Remington Workers" are in the windows of local businesses that sell everything from pizza slices to steel-toed boots. At Beer Belly Bob's beverage center across the street from the plant, Bob McDowell recalled the sales bump on Thursdays and Fridays after shifts ended at 3 p.m.

"I used to call it the beer train," McDowell said with a smile. "It was busy, and it is gone."

Remington's recent history has been a roller coaster ride with a lot of drops. Layoffs have been common. The plant, which employed around 1,200 people eight years ago, was down recently to about 600 union workers plus an estimated 100 or so salaried workers. The company began moving two production lines to a new plant in Huntsville, Alabama, in 2014.

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Remington dealt not only with the volatile gun market, but also legal action, after the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre. The gunman who killed 20 children and six educators at the Connecticut school used a Bushmaster AR-15 rifle, which once was made here.

Most workers were furloughed at the end of September as the company went through bankruptcy proceedings. Locals wondered whether it would ever restart.

The company was divvied up by multiple buyers. The bankruptcy court approved Sturm, Ruger & Co.'s \$30 million bid for Marlin Firearms, which were made here, and Anoka, Minnesota-based Vista Outdoor's \$81.4 million bid for Remington's ammunition and accessories businesses.

Roundhill Group's \$13 million bid included the Iliion firearms plant and a handgun barrel factory in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Roundhill partner Richmond Italia, a paintball industry veteran, said he was approached by Remington CEO Ken D'Arcy about the opportunity, according to documents filed in the bankruptcy case.

"I believe I was approached by Mr. D'Arcy due to my manufacturing business in the paintball gun market and apparently Mr. D'Arcy believed that there may be some synergy," Italia said in court papers.

Roundhill pledged in court documents to bring back at least 200 workers. They could eventually add hundreds more, but details are not clear.

Roundhill partners did not respond to calls and emails asking about their plans. But Italia told WUTR-TV last week they plan to bring back as many workers as possible within "a couple of months."

Local officials believe a number of pieces need to be in place before production starts, from a collective bargaining agreement with the union to a new federal firearms license.

One likely product would be Remington's Model 870 shotguns, said Jamie Rudwall, a district representative for the union. He said the new owners can rely on a trained workforce to produce shotguns for a hot market.

The FBI reports that it has processed more background checks to purchase or possess a firearm in the first nine months of 2020 than any previous year.

"We certainly have that capability of putting every single person back to work at 870s making literally between 1,200 and 1,800 every day. And every one of them will be sold," said Rudwall, who once worked at the plant.

The UMW said it has held "productive discussions" with Roundhill. Meanwhile, it also has excoriated the outgoing owners for terminating 585 workers this week along with their health care and other contractual benefits. The union said the company is refusing to pay severance and accrued vacation benefits, sparking pickets in Iliion this week.

Local officials say the new owners have also expressed concerns about the efficiency of the old four-story factory, preferring a modern one-floor plant. Vincent Bono, chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature, met with them Thursday and said he believes something can be worked out to keep the long local tradition of gun production alive.

"We're optimistic that Remington's going to have a home here," Bono said. "To what degree, we really don't know."

## Trump admin funds plasma company based in owner's condo

By RICHARD LARDNER and JASON DEAREN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the Trump administration gave a well-connected Republican donor seed money to test a possible COVID-19-fighting blood plasma technology, it noted the company's "manufacturing facilities" in Charleston, South Carolina.

Plasma Technologies LLC is indeed based in the stately waterfront city. But there are no manufacturing facilities. Instead, the company exists within the luxury condo of its majority owner, Eugene Zurlo.

Zurlo's company may be in line for as much as \$65 million in taxpayer dollars; enough to start building an actual production plant, according to internal government records and other documents obtained by The Associated Press.



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The story of how a tiny business that exists only on paper has managed to snare attention from the highest reaches of the U.S. military and government is emblematic of the Trump administration's frenetic response to the coronavirus pandemic.

It's also another in a series of contracts awarded to people with close political ties to key officials despite concerns voiced by government scientists. Among the others: an ill-conceived \$21 million study of Pepcid as a COVID therapy and more than a half billion dollars to ApiJect Systems America, a startup with an unapproved medicine injection technology and no factory to manufacture the devices.

In addition, a government whistleblower claimed that a \$1.6 billion vaccine contract to Novavax Inc. was made over objections of scientific staff.

At the center of these deals is Dr. Robert Kadlec, a senior Trump appointee at the Department of the Health and Human Services who backed the Pepcid, Novavax and ApiJect projects. Records obtained by the AP also describe Kadlec as a key supporter of Zurlo's company.

In one government email obtained by the AP, an official said Kadlec, whose job as assistant secretary for preparedness and response is to help guide the nation through public health emergencies, was "all in" on Plasma Technologies.

This was the case despite misgivings from the scientists he oversees. One of them said the company would be just another "mouth to feed" that would distract from other important work on the pandemic. An HHS spokesperson said Kadlec "does not have a role in technical review of proposals nor in negotiating contracts."

Kadlec has come under pressure from the White House to act with more urgency and not be bound by lower-level officials whom Trump has castigated as the "deep state" and accused of politically motivated delays in fielding COVID-19 vaccines and remedies. This pressure has led to investments in numerous untested companies.

The AP reached out to more than a dozen blood plasma industry leaders and medical experts. Few had heard of Zurlo's company or its technology, and would not comment.

Zurlo, the company's founder and a former pharmaceutical industry executive, told the AP in an email that the renewed interest in his company is being driven by COVID and other diseases.

"It is increasingly clear that the collection of adequate supplies of plasma is not possible; the answer being the adoption of new process technology that fully utilizes the scarce plasma currently available," he said.

But whether Zurlo's technology, which claims to increase the amount of disease-fighting plasma harvested from human blood, will be an improvement over other methods is still anyone's guess.

## A FORMER SENATOR ON BOARD

Top government officials began to take notice of Plasma Technologies after Rick Santorum, a former Republican senator from Pennsylvania and two-time presidential candidate, became part-owner, according to the records and AP interviews.

After Congress supplied hundreds of billions of dollars to combat the pandemic, Santorum stepped up his sales pitch for the company's method of turning human plasma into a therapeutic product — a process the company has described as a game changer. In mid-August, the federal government awarded Plasma Technologies a \$750,000 grant to demonstrate that it could deliver on its promises.

Santorum, who's held no elective office since 2007, remains influential among social conservatives, a key part of President Donald Trump's political base. Santorum has extolled the president's handling of the pandemic on national television in his job as a CNN commentator, arguing that the nation's response would have been worse under a Democratic administration.

Trump "didn't botch it," Santorum said recently in response to charges that the president had done a poor job leading the country through COVID-19. "I mean you guys keep blaming Trump. This is a local decision."

HHS would not comment when asked whether Santorum's public backing of the president led to a company he has a financial stake in getting a government contract.

Zurlo has deep ties to the Republican Party. He has contributed thousands of dollars to Santorum's

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campaigns and to other GOP campaigns and political action committees. He entertained Santorum and his family at the mansion Zurlo used to own on Kiawah Island, an exclusive golf resort in South Carolina. They would play golf during the day and enjoy evenings overlooking the Atlantic, according to Michel "Mitch" LaPlante, a former business associate of Zurlo's who attended several dinners with Santorum and Zurlo.

The business relationship between Zurlo and LaPlante turned ugly after those days of hobnobbing on Kiawah. A real estate deal they had invested in together fell into foreclosure, leading to a suit seeking more than \$700 million by their mortgage lender. Each man sued the other for fraud and severed their business ties acrimoniously.

Zurlo founded Plasma Technologies in 2003, according to articles of organization and other records filed with South Carolina's secretary of state. The company's most recently listed address is Zurlo's condominium in Charleston's French Quarter.

The company has no other presence in South Carolina — or any other state — even though a U.S. government spokeswoman told the AP that Plasma Technologies has "manufacturing facilities" in Charleston.

"Fairy tale," LaPlante said when asked if Plasma Technologies operates any commercial space in South Carolina's most populous city.

## OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN

Granting tens of millions of dollars to Plasma Technologies would track with Trump's support for treating COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma. Plasma, the yellowish liquid part of blood, harbors various antibodies, the soldiers of the body's immune response that can target specific intruders such as viruses. Studies are underway to see if plasma taken from people who have recently recovered from COVID-19 can help those newly diagnosed fight the infection.

Zurlo has spent years trying to break into a sector of the pharmaceutical industry that manufactures therapies using antibodies called immunoglobulins, which are taken from healthy people to treat immune disorders. But routine immunoglobulin treatments are only one part of the field.

During the pandemic, many plasma companies are focusing on "hyperimmune globulin," a therapy that pools and purifies plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients. The result is a powerful "potential global treatment for people at risk for serious complications from COVID-19," according to the CoVig-19 Plasma Alliance, an industry group that includes the world's largest plasma companies. Hyperimmune globulin produced by several companies is being tested in new COVID-19 patients.

The process for making these plasma-based therapies is called fractionation, and Plasma Technologies markets its approach as a "disruptive and transformative" technology that makes for a more potent product, according to the records. A document prepared by Plasma Technologies in late May that outlines the company's business strategy is focused on how much better its method is than a World War II-era process named for its developer, Edwin Cohn.

Dr. Jeff Henderson, an infectious disease specialist at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, said it is very likely that many companies have already developed improvements over the decades-old "Cohn" method. They just don't discuss them publicly because they are trade secrets.

"There may be 50 technologies in use that are an improvement over Cohn fractionation," Henderson said.

But Santorum described the plasma fractionation industry as more interested in keeping shareholders happy than adopting new technologies that would require expensive modifications to their manufacturing lines.

"You've got companies that are doing really well and don't want to change anything," Santorum said in an interview with the AP.

"We're the little guy trying to fight City Hall."

Plasma Technologies seemed to be on its way in 2014. The company had licensed its system to Dallas-based Access Pharmaceuticals, according to financial records filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

One filing described Zurlo as a trailblazer whose technology would "fundamentally change the econom-

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ics of plasma fractionation." Under the terms of the licensing agreement, Plasma Technologies was to be paid \$1 million in cash with an additional \$4 million in cash or stock to come.

But three years later, the agreement ended abruptly, according to the SEC records.

Now named Abeona Therapeutics, the company was grappling with crushing deficits — \$346 million in June 2017. It's unclear whether any of that red ink was due to the deal with Plasma Technologies. But by the end of 2017, "the agreement was terminated and the technology was returned" to Zurlo's company, according to an Abeona SEC filing.

A spokesman for Abeona Therapeutics declined to comment on the licensing agreement with Plasma Technologies.

Santorum blamed the deal's demise on onerous regulatory hurdles imposed by the Food and Drug Administration to ensure patient safety.

"They basically killed the product," he said.

Santorum rejected any suggestion that Zurlo's innovation is unproven, even though his company has never made an FDA-approved product. Plasma Technologies, he declared, is on the verge of transforming the industry, and for a fraction of the cost to develop a coronavirus vaccine.

"I'm just telling you, it's gonna happen," Santorum said.

## A LINE IN

Zurlo brought Santorum aboard after the agreement with Abeona fell through. "We've got an FDA problem. Can you help me?" Santorum recalled Zurlo telling him.

Zurlo's close relationship to Santorum offered a direct line into the FDA. The former senator had built a connection with Dr. Peter Marks, a senior FDA official, according to the documents obtained by AP.

In September 2019, Marks introduced Santorum at an FDA workshop held to explore the development of therapies for a rare disease. Santorum told the group about his youngest child, who was born with a life-threatening condition known as Trisomy 18, according to a transcript. Immunoglobulin treatments had saved her life, he told the audience.

Santorum's personal story about his child's illness was intertwined with a promotion of Plasma Technologies. Santorum said Zurlo, whom he called "a good friend," had invented a groundbreaking technology for better plasma-based therapies to help his child and others.

Santorum credited Marks, director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, for pledging to remove barriers that have kept Plasma Technologies on the outside, looking in. "All I'm saying is, we have an opportunity because of Dr. Marks and what he has laid forward," Santorum said at the workshop.

The former senator told the AP it would have been a "crime" if he hadn't used his influence to get Plasma Technologies recognized.

"Shame on me if I hadn't," he said.

## A SMALL SHAREHOLDER

In mid-April, a few weeks after Trump declared the coronavirus pandemic a national emergency, Santorum described Marks as an enthusiastic backer of Plasma Technologies, according to an email routed to multiple officials in the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA, an HHS office Kadlec oversees.

Calling himself a "small shareholder" in Plasma Technologies, Santorum wrote, "Dr. Marks said I should communicate to you that he is 'excited about this process and looks forward to working with us to get our process adopted by the industry.'"

The FDA declined a request to interview Marks and also declined to answer questions about whether he's been helping Plasma Technologies secure a commercial foothold.

"Dr. Marks' enthusiastic nature should not be mistaken for support for any specific product or technology," FDA spokeswoman Stephanie Caccamo said.

Federal ethics rules ban government employees from giving preferential treatment to any private organization or individual, according to Scott Amey, general counsel at the nonprofit Project on Government

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Oversight.

"Public trust in government decisions and a level playing field is essential to good government, so this situation deserves a look," Amey said.

Santorum confirmed that he communicated directly with Kadlec, whom he described as "very supportive" of Plasma Technologies.

But Santorum's initial pitch at HHS failed to gain traction among the agency's scientists, who didn't see Zurlo's technology as worthy of millions in emergency pandemic funding, according to the emails and Rick Bright, the former BARDA director. They were focused on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments that could be delivered quickly, and saw the Plasma Technologies project as a longer-term effort.

"They were not excited," recalled Bright, a vaccine expert who's been sharply critical of Kadlec's tenure at HHS. "They did not jump all over this and say, 'We've got to get this going right away.'"

Bright filed a whistleblower complaint in May that alleges the Trump administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus.

With HHS scientists unconvinced, Plasma Technologies submitted a proposal dated May 28 to the Defense Department, which also is heavily engaged in the government's COVID-19 response.

The detailed proposal, obtained by the AP, sought \$51.6 million to build a plasma fractionation facility in Atlanta or Raleigh, North Carolina.

With a military audience in mind, the proposal emphasizes the national security implications of the coronavirus pandemic, stressing the need to churn out sufficient doses of antibody-rich hyperimmune globulin "to bolster force health protection for members of our military who are at especially high risk of infection, or whose performance is critical to national security and safety." The proposal adds these plasma-derived proteins can be used as a treatment for viral infections until a vaccine is available.

The pitch fell flat. At first.

## ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED

In a June 12 email to HHS scientists, Army Lt. Col. Kara Schmid wrote that the price tag for Plasma Technologies was too high, even for the Pentagon, and that key parts of the company's proposal were too vague.

"I'm just unclear if it has \$50M worth of value," Schmid wrote, adding she was "lukewarm at this point."

Brian Tse, a BARDA health scientist, told Schmid that his office had passed on Plasma Technologies. With no production facility, Zurlo's company intended to get COVID-19 patient plasma from blood donation centers that were already under heavy stress because of the pandemic.

"I believe that adding one additional 'mouth to feed' to the same source is more likely to induce delays to the projects already underway than it is to solve problems," Tse wrote.

Despite the doubts, Kadlec didn't lose interest in Plasma Technologies, according to the emails. "Dr. Kadlec has specifically asked us to take a closer look," an early July message read.

Over the rest of July, the messages among his staff expressed misgivings about Zurlo's technology, yet the company remained in play.

Several days later, an HHS contracting officer rejected the idea that Plasma Technologies might partner with one of the plasma companies that the government was already working with.

"The connection is not viable from a contractual standpoint," the officer wrote in a July 16 email.

Still, a week later, Plasma Technologies had a champion at the Pentagon.

Santorum said he was contacted by Steven Morani, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for materiel readiness. Defense Department officials were drawn to the idea of a U.S.-owned and operated fractionation facility, according to Santorum.

It's not clear what changed, but messages from late July show Morani and other defense officials had conferred and would support the Plasma Technologies project. An initial \$750,000 in emergency coronavirus spending would be used to prove the concept, a move backed by HHS, with as much as \$65 million in government money to come later to build a commercial facility and to purchase plasma and other materials, according to the emails. That's more even than Plasma Technologies requested.



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The messages don't say where that money would come from or why the additional \$13.4 million is required. Morani referred AP's emailed questions about the company and the contract to a Defense Department spokeswoman, Jessica Maxwell, who declined to discuss future funding for Plasma Technologies.

"The \$750,000 is currently the total amount of government funding planned for the effort," Maxwell said. Santorum, who criticized a reporter for writing what he termed a "political hit piece," said Zurlo intends to donate any profits Plasma Technologies generates to charities that support the mission of the Catholic Church.

But Santorum had different plans for any returns on his investment. "I have made no such claims as a father of seven who has three weddings this year," he said. "If any money were to come, I would welcome that money to help pay my bills."

Dearen reported from New York. Associated Press writer Meg Kinnard in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

To contact AP's investigative team, email [investigative@ap.org](mailto:investigative@ap.org)

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 2, the 307th day of 2020. There are 59 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 2, 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

On this date:

In 1783, General George Washington issued his Farewell Address to the Army near Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued a declaration expressing support for a "national home" for the Jews in Palestine.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman surprised the experts by winning a narrow upset over Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1959, former game show contestant Charles Van Doren admitted to a House subcommittee that he'd been given questions and answers in advance when he appeared on the NBC's "Twenty-One."

In 1963, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem (noh ding ZEE'-em) was assassinated in a military coup.

In 1986, kidnappers in Lebanon released American hospital administrator David Jacobsen after holding him for 17 months.

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Florida, convicted Paul Hill of murder for the shotgun slayings of an abortion provider and his escort; Hill was executed in September 2003.

In 2000, American astronaut Bill Shepherd and two Russian cosmonauts, Yuri Gidzenko (gihd-ZEENG'-koh) and Sergei Krikalev (SUR'-gay KREE'-kuh-lev), became the first residents of the international space station.

In 2003, in Iraq, insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter carrying dozens of U.S. soldiers, killing 16. In Durham, New Hampshire, V. Gene Robinson was consecrated as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church.

In 2004, President George W. Bush was elected to a second term as Republicans strengthened their grip on Congress. Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was slain in Amsterdam after receiving death threats over his movie "Submission," which criticized the treatment of women under Islam.

In 2016, ending a championship drought that had lasted since 1908, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, defeating the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in extra innings at Progressive Field.

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Ten years ago: Republicans won control of the House of Representatives, picking up 63 seats in mid-term elections, while Democrats retained a majority in the Senate; Republican governors outnumbered Democrats after gaining six states. Californians rejected a ballot measure that would have made their state the first to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Surfing champion Andy Irons, 32, was found dead in a Dallas-area hotel room. (An autopsy found that Irons had died from sudden cardiac arrest due to severe blockage of a main artery.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama toured a drug rehabilitation center and met with former inmates in Newark, New Jersey, where he called on the nation to ensure those regaining their freedom got a second chance instead of a return ticket to prison. NASA and its global partners celebrated the 15th anniversary of continuous residency at the International Space Station, where six U.S., Russian and Japanese crew members held a special dinner. Actor-writer Colin Welland, 81, who won an Academy Award for his screenplay for "Chariots of Fire," died in London. Country singer Tommy Overstreet, 78, died in Hillsboro, Oregon.

One year ago: Washington Nationals fans lined the streets of the nation's capital for a parade to celebrate the city's first World Series victory since 1924. The United Auto Workers announced that President Gary Jones was taking a paid leave of absence amid a federal investigation of corruption within the union. (Jones pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to embezzle union dues.) Character actor Brian Tarantina, most recently known for his role as the comedy club emcee on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," died in his New York City home at the age of 60.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jay Black (Jay and the Americans) is 82. Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 82. Actor Stefanie Powers is 78. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 75. Actor Kate Linder is 73. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 62. Actor Peter Mullan is 61. Singer-songwriter k.d. lang is 59. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 57. Actor Jenny Robertson ("Bull Durham") is 57. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 56. Actor Lauren Velez is 56. Actor Sean Kanan is 54. Actor David Schwimmer is 54. Christian/jazz singer Alvin Chea (Take 6) is 53. Jazz singer Kurt Elling is 53. Former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is 53. Rock musician Fieldy is 51. Actor Meta Golding is 49. Rock singer-musician John Hampson (Nine Days) is 49. Actor Marisol Nichols is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Timothy Christian Riley (Tony Toni Tone) is 46. Rapper Nelly is 46. Actor Danny Cooksey is 45. Rock musician Chris Walla is 45. Actor Reshma Shetty is 43. TV personality Karamo Brown ("Queer Eye," "Dancing With the Stars") is 40. Country singer Erika Jo is 34. Actor-singer Kendall Schmidt is 30.