

# Groton Daily Independent

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“Accept yourself,  
love yourself, and keep  
moving forward.  
If you want to fly,  
you have to give up  
what weighs you down.

-ROY T. BENNETT,  
THE LIGHT IN THE HEART

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

## Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Worship inside at 9 a.m.

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

United Methodist Church: Worship in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, 10:30 a.m. Worship inside or stay in vehicle and listen on the FM.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the basement.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>



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

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



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

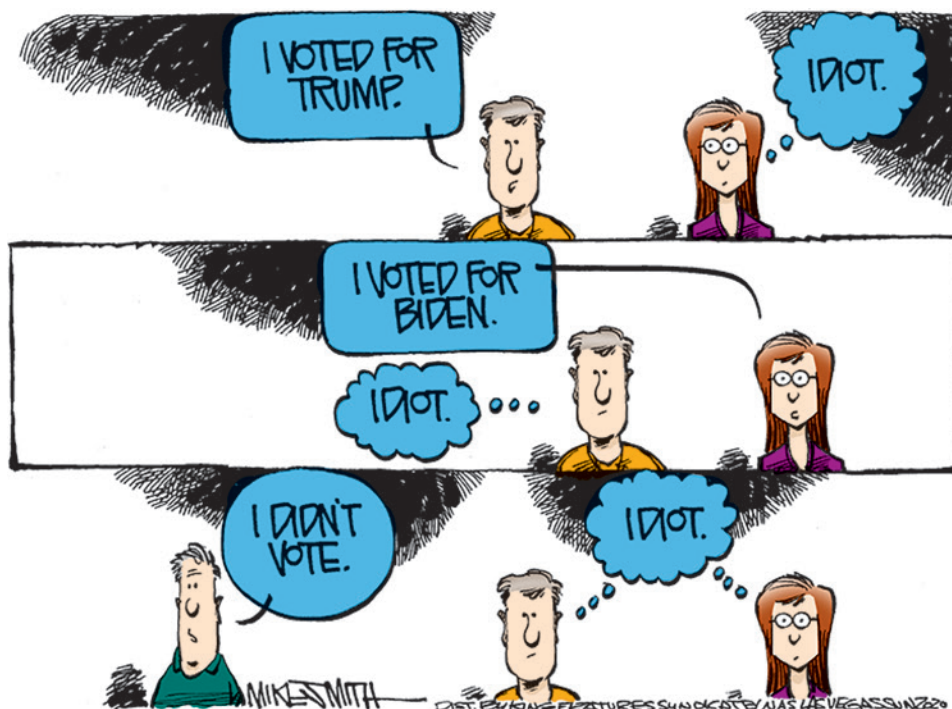
*You have set all  
the borders of  
the earth;  
You have made  
summer and winter.*

PSALM 74:17



Detail of "Winter in Volkovskoe"  
by Vitaliy Gubarev (1985)

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. To keep Adam and Eve away after the Fall, what did God place around the tree of life? *Smoking pits, Deep moat, Cherubims with a flaming sword, Walking vipers*

3. Who is the only daughter of Jacob specifically named in the Bible (KJV)? *Dinah, Junias, Noadiah, Orpah*

4. From 2 Samuel 12, what personality did God name Jedidiah? *David, Amos, Solomon, Joab*

5. What type water did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman at the well? *Fresh, Cool, Living, Clean*

6. From John 10, to what type of animals are Christians compared? *Camels, Sheep, Lions, Serpents*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Cherubims with a flaming sword; 3) Dinah; 4) Solomon; 5) Living; 6) Sheep

*“Test Your Bible Knowledge,” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.*

## Comfort foods

Made fast  
and  
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Walnut Peach Pie

Looking for something different to serve for dessert at your Thanksgiving table? Here's a simple peach pie using canned peaches.

- 1 (4-serving) package Jell-O sugar-free vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- 1 (4-serving) package Jello-O sugar-free lemon gelatin
- 1 (16-ounce) can sliced peaches, packed in fruit juice, drained and 1/2 cup liquid reserved
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup peach spreadable fruit
- 1 (6-ounce) graham-cracker pie crust
- 2 tablespoons purchased graham-cracker crumbs or 2 (2 1/2-inch) graham-cracker squares, made into crumbs
- 1/4 cup Splenda Granular
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts

1. Heat oven to 350 F. In medium saucepan, combine dry pudding mix, dry gelatin, reserved peach liquid, water and spreadable fruit. Stir in peaches.

2. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring often, being careful not to crush peaches. Spoon hot mixture into pie crust.

3. In a small bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, Splenda and walnuts. Evenly sprinkle crumb mixture over filling. Lightly spray top with butter-flavored cooking spray. Bake for 15 minutes.

4. Place pie plate on a wire rack and let set for 30 minutes. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Cut into 8 servings.

HINT: A self-seal sandwich bag works great for crushing graham crackers.

• Each serving equals: 199 calories, 7g fat, 2g protein, 32g carb. 212mg sodium, 4mg calcium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Fruit, 1 Fat; Carb Choices: 2.

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## CHARACTER PROFILE:

# SECRET AGENT X-9

WRITTEN BY DASHIELL HAMMETT AND ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX RAYMOND, "SECRET AGENT X-9" FIRST APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS ON JANUARY 22, 1934.



YOU ARE MR. ....?  
 YES--YOU CAN CALL ME DEXTER--- IT'S NOT MY NAME BUT I'LL DO

DURING RAYMOND'S TENURE ON "SECRET AGENT X-9" HE WORKED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON TWO OTHER COMIC STRIPS...

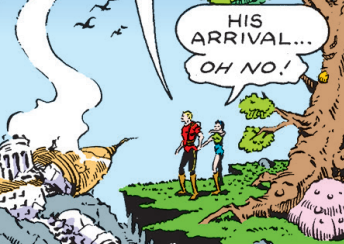
...INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURER "JUNGLE JIM" AND A SCI-FI STRIP CALLED "FLASH GORDON".

# FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

WITH THE SPACE PORTAL'S DESTRUCTION, MING'S FORTRESS IS OBLITERATED.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE X-9'S GONE. IF NOT FOR HIS ARRIVAL ON MONGO, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP MING IN TIME.



HIS ARRIVAL...  
 OH NO!



DALE, WHAT IS IT?

BEFORE X-9 WENT THROUGH THE SPACE PORTAL, I HIT IT WITH A TASER.

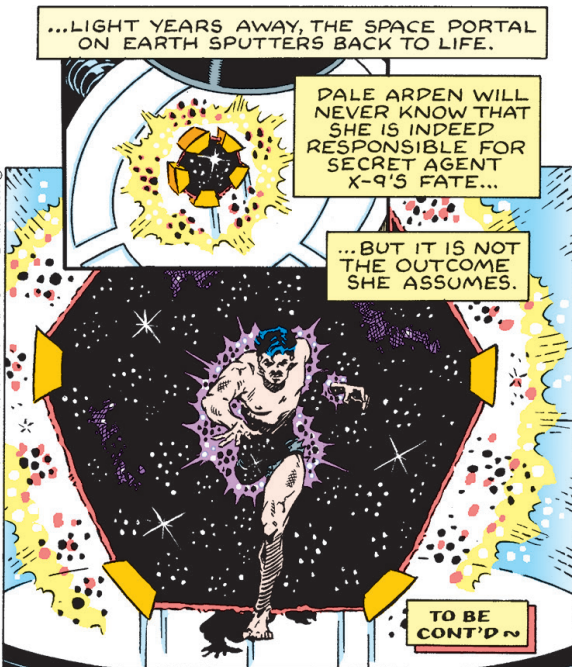
AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, HIS CELL STRUCTURE NEVER STABILIZED.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DON'T YOU SEE? WHAT IF THE WAY HE DIED---HOW HE DISINTEGRATED RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES---WHAT IF...  
 CHOKE?  
 IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME?

AS IF TO ANSWER DALE'S PLAINTIVE QUERY...



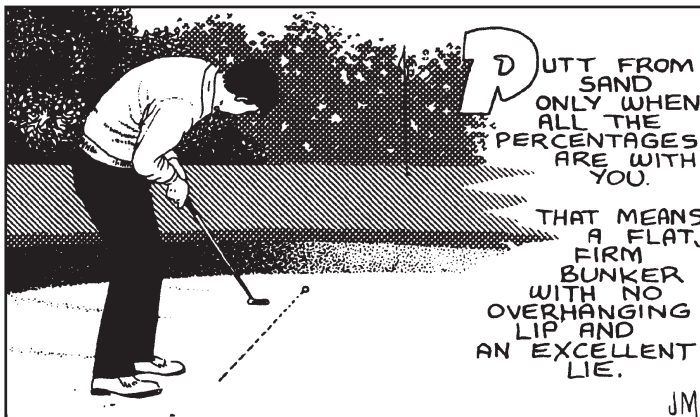
...LIGHT YEARS AWAY, THE SPACE PORTAL ON EARTH SPUTTERS BACK TO LIFE.

DALE ARDEN WILL NEVER KNOW THAT SHE IS INDEED RESPONSIBLE FOR SECRET AGENT X-9'S FATE...

...BUT IT IS NOT THE OUTCOME SHE ASSUMES.

TO BE CONT'D ~

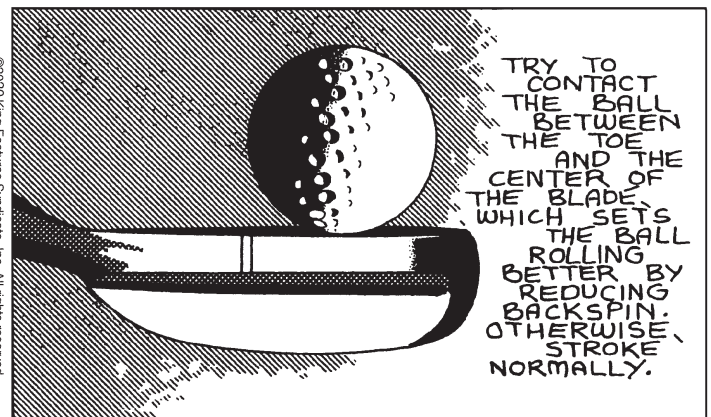
## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**D**UTT FROM SAND ONLY WHEN ALL THE PERCENTAGES ARE WITH YOU.

THAT MEANS A FLAT, FIRM BUNKER WITH NO OVERHANGING LIP AND AN EXCELLENT LIE.

JM



TRY TO CONTACT THE BALL BETWEEN THE TOE AND THE CENTER OF THE BLADE, WHICH SETS THE BALL ROLLING BETTER BY REDUCING BACKSPIN. OTHERWISE, STROKE NORMALLY.

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## False Positives Plague Lung Cancer Screening

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I'm a 74-year-old female who smoked a pack a day for 40-plus years, having quit smoking about 18 years ago. As a precaution, I asked my primary doctor to order a screening CT scan, knowing that I'm a candidate for lung cancer. The results showed a 3-mm nodule in one lung, and I was advised not to worry and that my doctor would order another CT scan in six months. I can't help but wonder if this is cancer and if an oncologist, after six months, will ask me why I waited so long to see him. — T.W.

**ANSWER:** Medical professionals have been attempting to screen for lung cancer for decades. Chest X-rays proved insensitive: By the time cancer could be seen on X-ray, it was usually too late to do anything about it. CT scans are much more sensitive (maybe too sensitive; see below), and studies have shown that some lives will be saved with a screening program. However, the number of people who would benefit is relatively small; 256 moderate-to-heavy smokers would need yearly screening for three years in order to prevent one lung cancer death.

There are two other significant concerns about lung cancer screening. The first is the issue you have now: an abnormal result and what to do about it. It's extremely common. Almost 25% of scans will be abnormal, and 96% of the abnormal results will be false positives. But it will require multiple scans and sometimes an invasive

procedure to prove it. This means a great deal of anxiety among people who get the type of result you did.

The small size of your nodule means your risk that this nodule is cancer is much lower than 1%. A follow-up scan is the usual recommendation, and if the nodule is the same size or smaller, the chance of it being cancer is very close to zero. You should have had a careful explanation of the likelihood of false positive results before getting the scan. You should also have been warned of the possible need for a biopsy and the possible financial costs associated with follow-up testing.

The second concern is that current smokers who consider screening should receive intensive advice and help in quitting smoking. A negative CT scan is not a "clean bill of health" for a smoker and quitting remains the single most important thing most smokers can do for their overall health.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** How often does a healthy person with perfect vision and no eye concerns need to see an eye doctor? — D.S.

**ANSWER:** A periodic eye exam in someone with no symptoms involves a screening test for vision changes related to aging and other eye diseases, including glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and cataracts. There are several commonsense reasons for screening, but there has not been good evidence to support its use. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force does not make a recommendation for or against screening. The Canadian Task Force recommends against it.

By contrast, the American Academy of Ophthalmologists recommends a baseline exam at age 40; visits every two to four years from age 40-54; every year to three years from age 55-64; and annual exams for people 65 and over.

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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1. In what two Del Shannon songs do we hear a clavichord?
2. Which artist released the 1978 hit "Shame"?
3. Name the group that went through a number of name changes: Royal Charms, the Gladiolas and the Excellos.
4. Who released "Black Is Black"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Do you remember the 21st night of September? Love was changing the minds of pretenders."

### Answers

1. "Runaway" and "Hats Off to Larry" (1961). The clavichord is the electronic keyboard in the bridge solo. Listen for it also in "Telstar" by the Tornados.
2. Evelyn "Champagne" King. The song is featured on "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City."
3. Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs. They changed names after spotting a British-built Ford Zodiac while on the road in West Virginia.
4. The Spanish band Los Bravos, in 1966, with German singer Michael Kogel as lead — not Gene Pitney, as many believed.
5. "After the Love Has Gone," by Earth, Wind & Fire, in 1979. The song was originally written years earlier by David Foster for '50s crooner Jaye P. Morgan, but that album didn't do well. Earth, Wind & Fire took the song all the way to a Grammy win.

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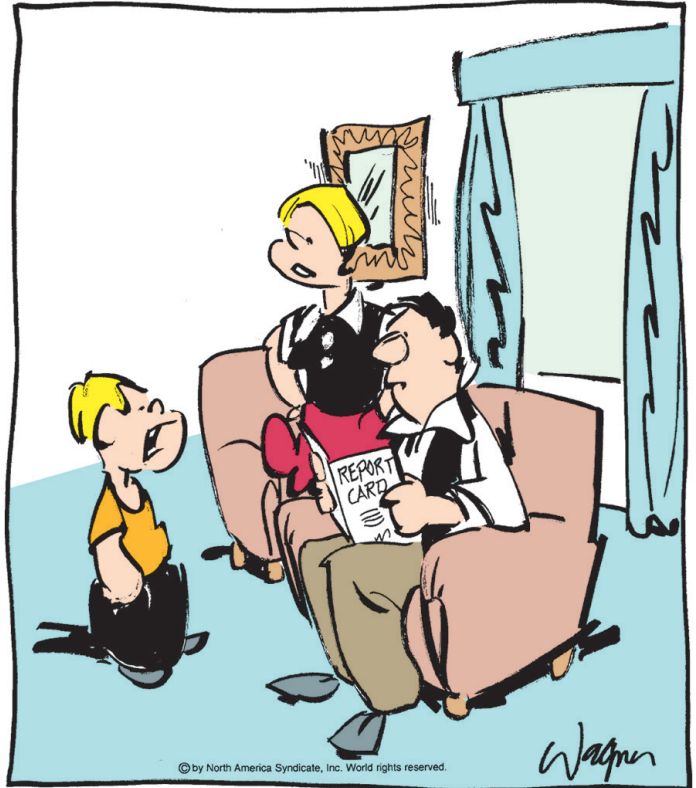
## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner

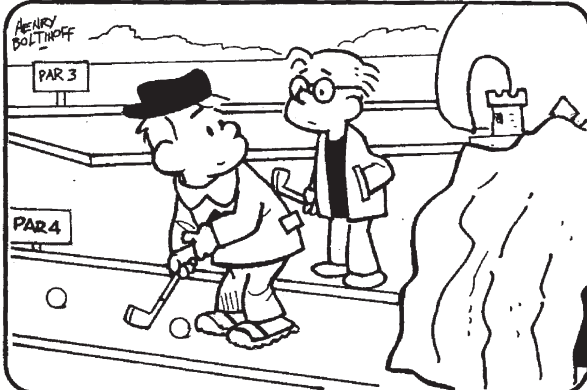


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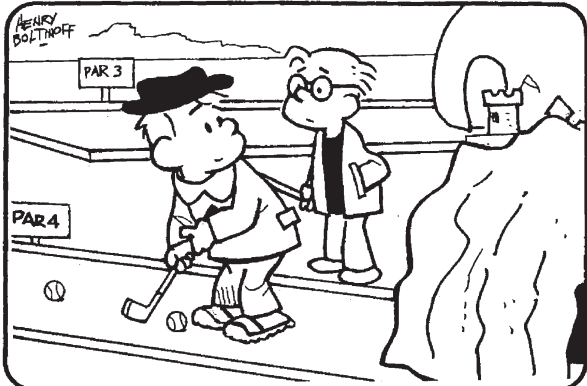
Wagner

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Boy's hat is different. 2. Castle has a flag. 3. Par 3 sign has moved. 4. Golf balls have become baseballs. 5. Golf club is longer. 6. Some distant trees are missing.



- This is a wonderful tip received via e-mail: If you have a panic button for your car alarm, keep your keys by the bedside. If you experience a problem during the night, trip the panic alarm. Let your trusted neighbors know about your intention, and they will be able to assist you.

- “Great gravy is only a plastic bag away! This is my tip for separating the fat from pan drippings to make gravy. I take a quart-size plastic bag and set it in a glass measuring cup. Pour the pan drippings through a strainer, right into the bag. Let it sit for 15-20 minutes, and the fat will separate to the top. Seal the bag, and snip a small hole in a bottom corner, drain the liquid into a saucepan to make gravy. It’s that easy.” —*T.C. in Idaho*

- Whenever I am baking and the recipe calls for, say, 1 cup of honey (or some other sticky substance), I used to pour the honey into the measuring cup but then have a hard time getting

all the honey back out of the cup and into the mixing bowl. Now I rinse the measuring cup with water right before measuring, or spray with nonstick cooking spray. It slides right out!

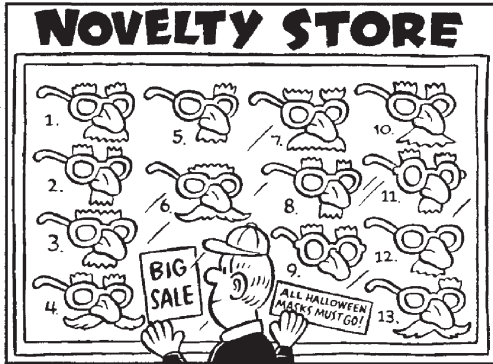
- To create a self-watering area for potted plants while you are on vacation, set plants in the bathtub or in a kiddie pool and use a length of cotton rope to wick water from the bathtub to the plant’s roots. You can either stick it up the holes in the bottom of the pot or dig it down a few inches into the soil. This should get you by for a week or so.

- If you have a table that’s wobbly because of an uneven leg, and you are a wine drinker, you’re in luck. Take a wine cork, cut it in small slices and glue the slices to the uneven leg until the table no longer wobbles. Easy!

*Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

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**THE POST HALLOWEEN SALE!** The local novelty store has masks left over from last week. Can you spot two that are exactly alike?

Answer: Masks 2 and 8.

**A NEAT BET!** Here's how you can prove that "six plus five equals nine." Lay out six ice cream sticks as shown in Fig. 1. Now add five more sticks to the layout so that they spell out the number "nine" (see Fig. 2). Another win for the math genius!

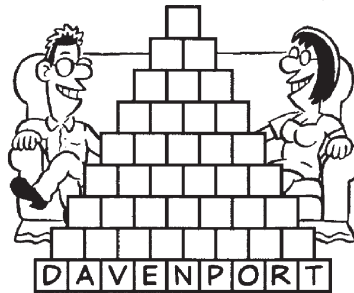


**FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE!** In the Word Square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "TANDEM." See if you can replace these letters in the square so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down.

T		E	
A	O		E
N	G		E
D			
E			
M			

Answers: (Across) Met, ode, age, ten. (Down) Moat, edge, teen.

## THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!



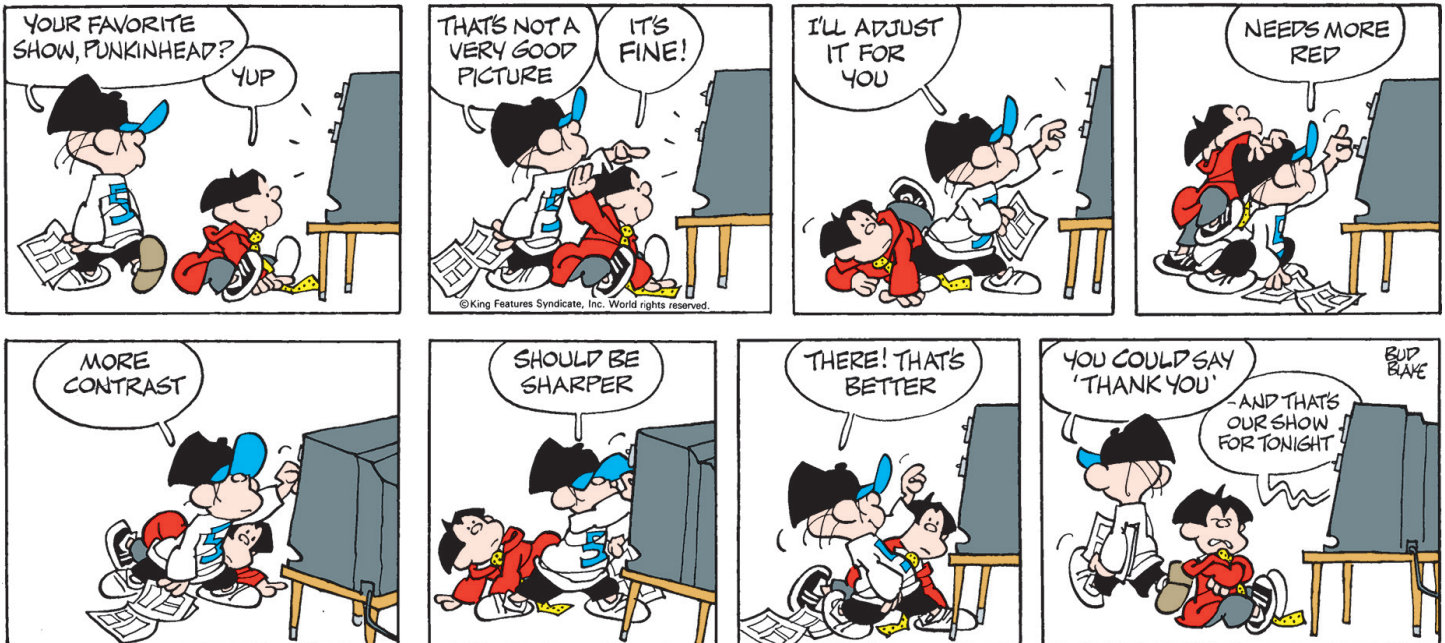
Starting with the word DAVENPORT at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. To make the challenge harder, the following helpful hints are NOT in ascending order:

1. Used to propel.
2. To release from penalty.
3. A horse coloring.
4. Turned hand palm down.
5. A vowel.
6. Old name for a sofa.
7. To decorate.
8. Indicates an alternative.
9. Dressed for cooking.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Davenport, aproned, aproned, pardon, adorn, roan, car, or, o.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Witticism
- 4 Out of danger
- 8 "Price Is Right" guesses
- 12 Exist
- 13 Vacation
- 14 Traditional tales
- 15 Scout festival
- 17 Black gem
- 18 Woolly beast
- 19 Kanga's kid
- 21 Firmament
- 22 Cavort
- 26 Wander off
- 29 Potent stick
- 30 Inventor Whitney
- 31 Implement
- 32 "Gosh!"

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
18							19	20				
			21				22			23	24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49						
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

- 33 Small combo
- 34 In times past
- 35 Support system?
- 36 Dud on wheels
- 37 Panda's lunch
- 39 Neely of hockey fame
- 40 Debtor's letters
- 41 Current measure
- 45 Goad on
- 48 Angkor Wat locale
- 50 Roster
- 51 Hastened
- 52 Egos' counterparts
- 53 "Why not?"
- 54 — podrida
- 55 Ball-bearing item
- 52 Egos' counterparts
- 8 Become a flower
- 9 Tiny bit
- 10 Parch
- 11 Gender
- 16 — metabolism
- 20 Feedbag morsel
- 23 Highway shoulder
- 24 Hodgepodge
- 25 MGM mascot
- 26 Impale
- 27 Frat party garb
- 28 Leeway
- 29 Afternoon
- social
- 32 Julius Marx
- 33 Beat
- 35 Halloween cry
- 36 11th Greek letter
- 38 Product of one's labor?
- 39 Ship of the desert
- 42 Rewrite
- 43 Carousel, e.g.
- 44 Relaxation
- 45 Crafty
- 46 Chart format
- 47 Dos Passos trilogy
- 49 Have a bug

### DOWN

- 1 Naked Goya subject
- 2 Exam format
- 3 Sub for a vacationer
- 4 Thickset
- 5 Impressive grouping
- 6 "A pox on thee!"
- 7 Ornate cen-

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## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	O	T		S	A	F	E		B	I	D	S
A	R	E		T	R	I	P		L	O	R	E
J	A	M	B	O	R	E	E		O	N	Y	X
A	L	P	A	C	A		R	O				
			S	K	Y		G	A	M	B	O	L
S	T	R	A	Y		T	N	T		E	L	I
T	O	O	L		G	E	E		T	R	I	O
A	G	O		B	R	A		L	E	M	O	N
B	A	M	B	O	O		C	A	M			
			I	O	U		A	M	P	E	R	E
S	P	U	R		C	A	M	B	O	D	I	A
L	I	S	T		H	I	E	D		I	D	S
Y	E	A	H		O	L	L	A		T	E	E

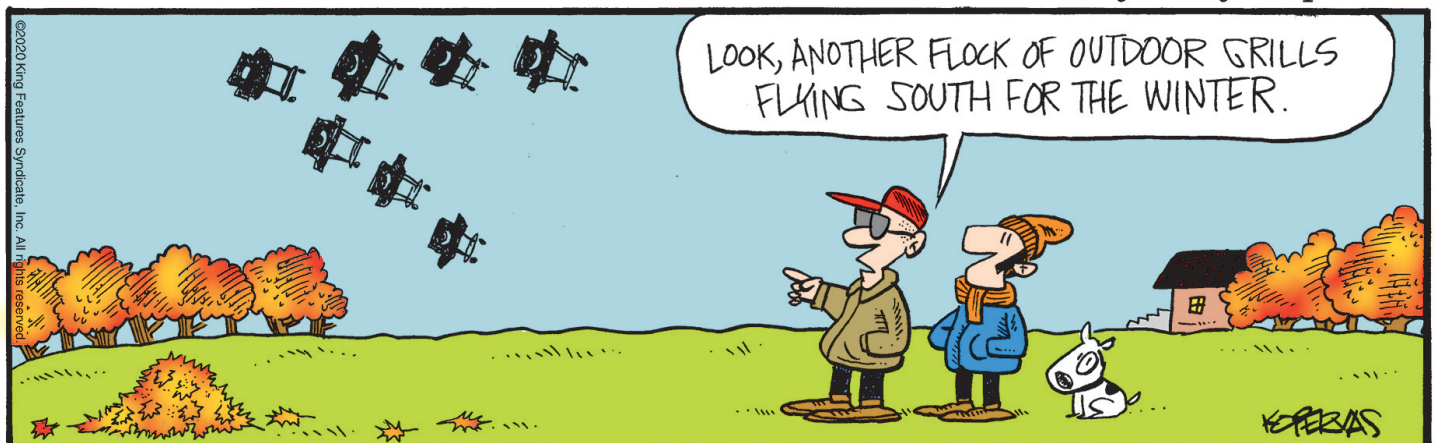
## LAFF - A - DAY



"I never listen to the evidence —  
it only confuses my intuition."

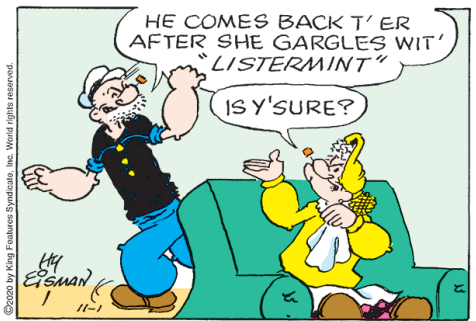
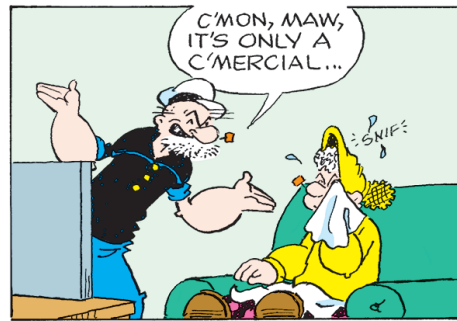
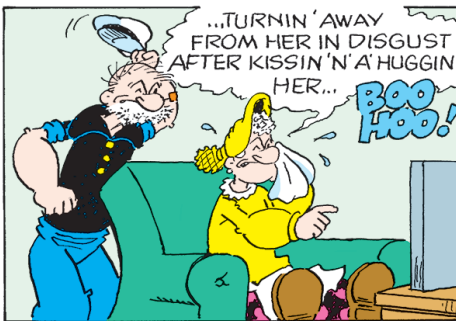
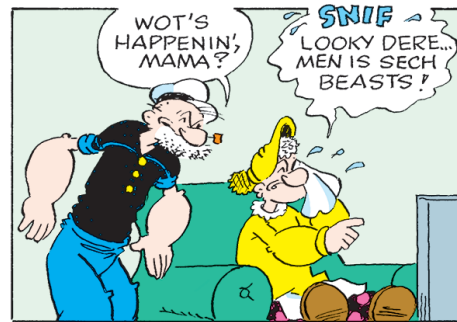
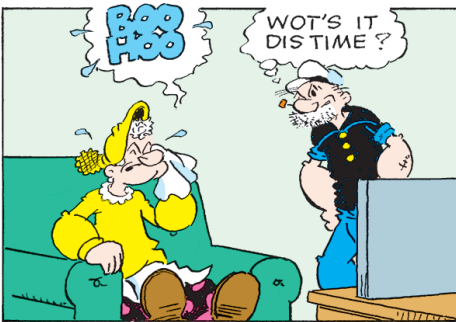
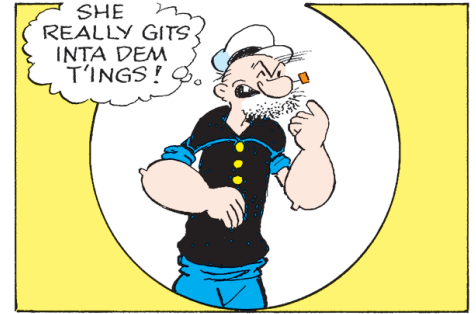
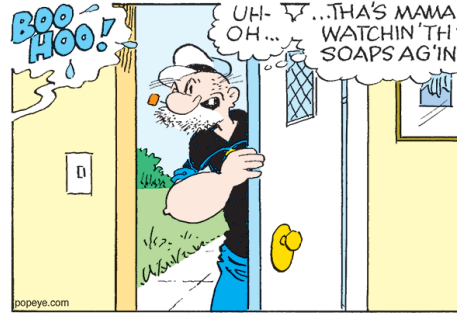
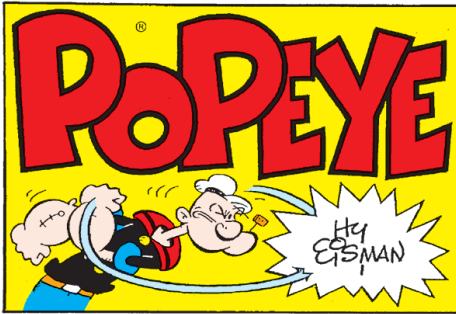
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



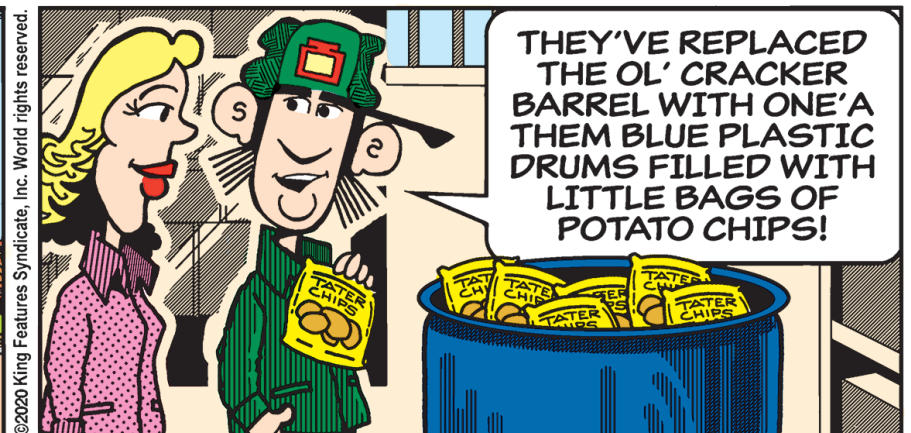
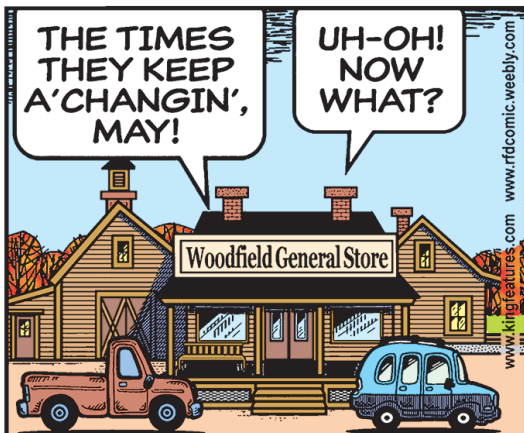
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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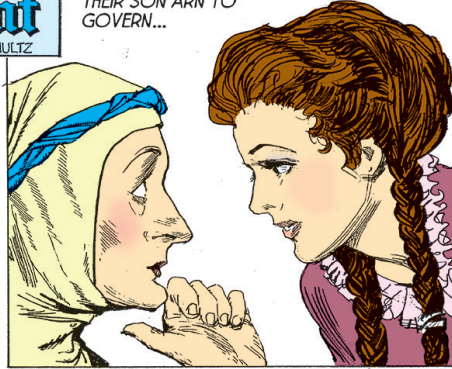
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## Our Story:

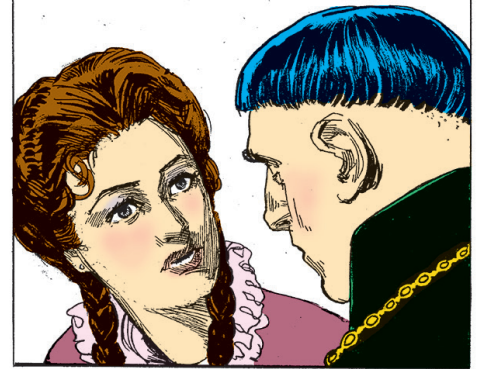
EVEN IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE INTERNET, BAD NEWS TRAVELED FAST. SO PRINCE VALIANT WENT ADVENTURING...

Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

... LEAVING QUEEN ALETA AS CAMELOT'S REGENT. WHEN HE DID NOT RETURN, SHE WENT TO FIND HIM, APPOINTING THEIR SON ARN TO GOVERN...



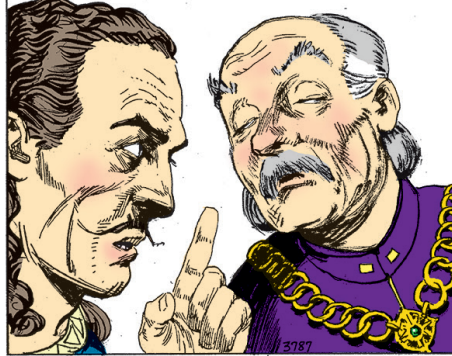
...WELL - ALETA FOUND HER HUSBAND, BUT THEY HAD MANY ADVENTURES BEFORE RETURNING HOME WITH SOME UNUSUAL ACQUAINTANCES...



... AS WELL AS A CERTAIN EGG THAT LURED ITS MOTHER - A DRAGON, UNFORTUNATELY - TO CAMELOT! AS A RESULT, THERE IS LITTLE OF THE CASTLE LEFT STANDING...



... NOW, AMIDST THE RUINS, ARN HURLS HARSH ACCUSATIONS AT FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THEY SEEK REINSTATEMENT AS CAMELOT'S REGENTS! TSK!"



AND SO WORD REACHES A SECLUDED MONASTERY AND A RETIRED MONARCH. HE SIGHS. "VALIANT AS REGENT - WHAT WAS I THINKING?"

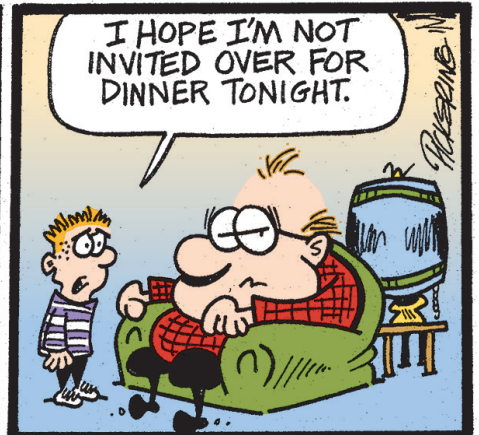
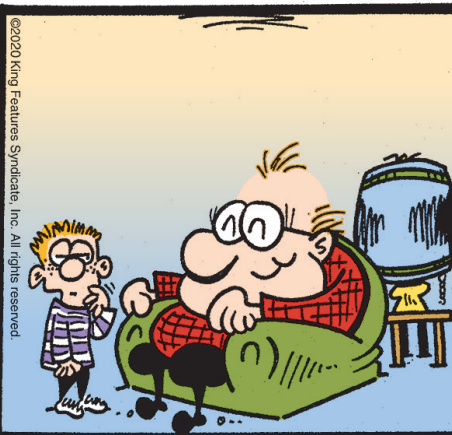
NEXT:  
Arthur returns



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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Act Now to Change Your Medicare Plan

Have you finished making your decisions about your Medicare plan for 2021? If you're going to make a change, you have only a short time to pick a new one. The deadline is Dec. 7.

There are so many options: Medicare Advantage, a supplemental plan or the traditional Medicare. And there are many things to consider within those options — the drugs we currently take, eye exams, hearing aids, annual preventive tests and more.

The place to start is with your current plan. By now you should have received your Medicare Annual Notice of Change Letter if you have an Advantage or Part D plan. (You won't get one for a Supplemental plan.) The letter will itemize any changes to your 2021 plan, including price. Compare your current plan with any changes in your plan for next year.

Have your needs changed this year?

Are there new drugs you're taking? Is your doctor included in your network? What about the pharmacy you like to use? Are you likely to need a procedure in 2021? What else are you likely to need in the next year?

Look at your Medicare & You 2021 book that came in the mail. Check inside the front cover for information on lowering insulin costs, acupuncture for back pain, telehealth visits and more. (If you can't find your copy, go online to [www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-Medicare-and-You.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-Medicare-and-You.pdf).)

If you want to consider making a change, go online to Medicare.gov and look at plans for your area. For any changes to a supplemental plan, call that plan directly.

Don't try to do this all in one day. Give yourself time to consider what you need, and ask questions.

Get personalized help at State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at [www.shiptacenter.org](http://www.shiptacenter.org) if you need it. Click on SHIP Locator for listings by state, or call them at 877-839-2675.

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1. What is the name of the fuzzy blob that serves as mascot for the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers?

2. What mixed martial arts fighter won a major upset at UFC 193 in 2015 and gave Ronda Rousey her first loss?

3. What team selected goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck with their first pick in the 1993 NHL Expansion Draft?

4. How many double stitches are hand-sewn on the cover of an official Major League baseball?

5. The Hopman Cup tennis tournament is named after Harry Hopman, a player and coach from what country?

6. Who did unheralded boxer Hasim Rahman knock out to win the unified heavyweight championship in April 2001?

7. Nick Nolte and country music artist Mac Davis starred in what 1979 football comedy film?



by Ryan A. Berenz

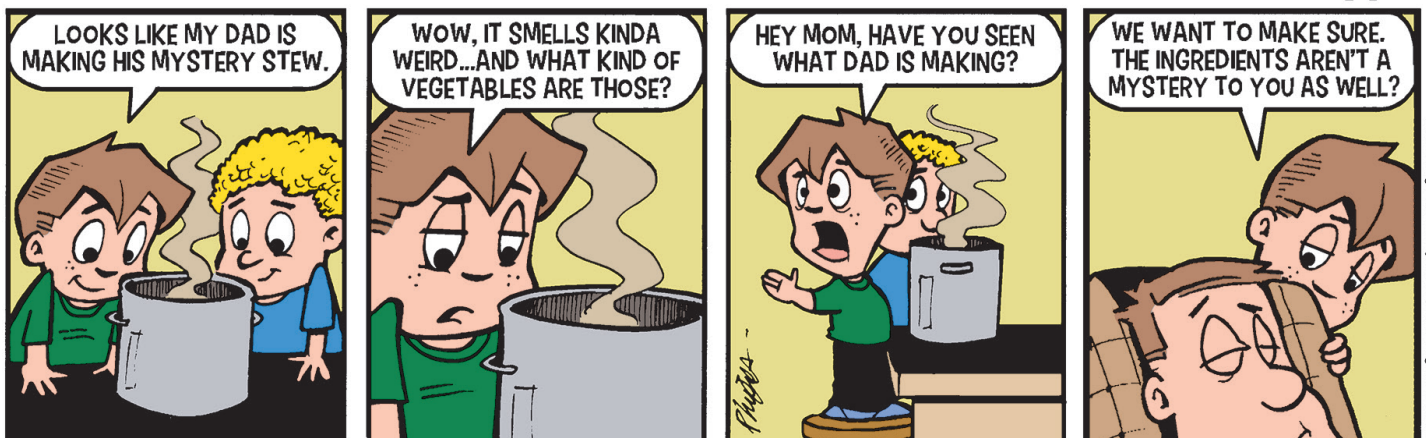
## Answers

1. Big Red.
2. Holly Holm.
3. The Florida Panthers.
4. 108.
5. Australia.
6. Lennox Lewis.
7. "North Dallas Forty."

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Downgrading Cat's Fresh Food Diet

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I was furloughed from my job in April and have been getting by on savings and an unemployment check. With no new job yet, I need to drastically cut back expenses to get through this winter. My cat "Silk" is 9 years old and eats a special diet of prescription canned food plus fresh pet food from the grocery. Will she stay healthy if I temporarily replace her diet with a commercial cat food? — *Henry in Worcester, Massachusetts*

**DEAR HENRY:** Thank you for putting Silk first in your household budget, especially in these tough times! Give your cat's veterinarian a call and discuss the situation. Would a four- to six-month break from prescription canned food be OK, and not threaten Silk's health? The answer depends on the condition for which she's eating special food.

You can probably stop buying those prepackaged fresh pet foods for your cat, at least until you get financially back on track. Instead, prepare a few days' worth of fresh cat food at home by steaming rice, peas and a protein like chicken or tuna until fully cooked (do not add spices or salt) and smashing together. Cool and store in the refrigerator.

Fresh food needs to be supplemented with a formulated cat food so that Silk gets key nutrients during this time. The veterinarian should be able to recommend an off-the-shelf cat food, either dry or canned, that will meet her needs for a few months. If she is taking medications as well, don't skimp on her medicines, and be sure to include them in your budgeting.

*Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Deceased scientists and researchers who have contributed to the study of Mars will, in a sense, live forever on the red planet: Craters larger than 37 miles are named in their honor.

- Hans Steininger, who is said to have had the longest beard in the world, died in 1567 from tripping over that beard while running from a fire.

- The blue whale is earth's largest living creature, surpassing even most dinosaurs. Not only can it reach over 100 feet in length and weigh more than 100 tons, but its heart can tip the scale at 1,300 pounds and is the size of a small car, while its arteries are big enough for a full-grown human to swim through — not that we recommend you go for a swim and attempt it.

- In 2007, Iran claimed 14 squirrels found near the nation's borders were actually spies.

- New York City's Flatiron building used to cause enough downdrafts to lift the skirts of women passing by, giving a then-daring view of their legs and ankles. The phenomenon resulted in groups of young men regularly gathering on 23rd Street to watch.

- People with autism are less likely to catch yawns.

- The record for most times being hit by a baseball pitch — a whopping 287 — belongs to Hughie Jennings, who finally got smart and retired in 1918.

- A bizarre form of Victorian-era entertainment was the "Fasting Girl." Young women appeared in public exhibits and dazzled spectators with claims that they ate nothing at all. Obviously they munched in secret and most were eventually caught at it, though, tragically, some starved to death in a bid for authenticity.

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**Thought for the Day:** "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." — *Pericles*

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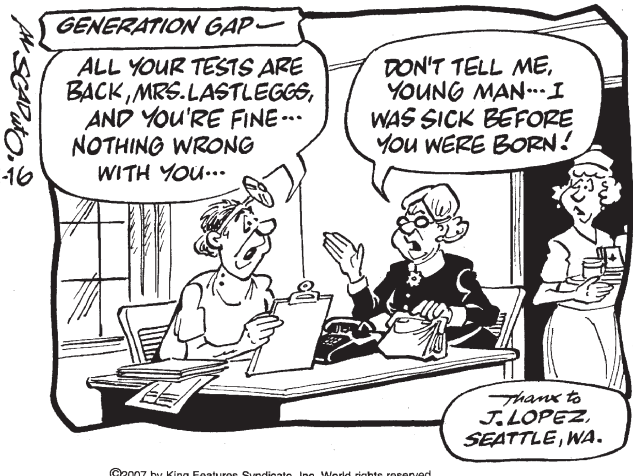
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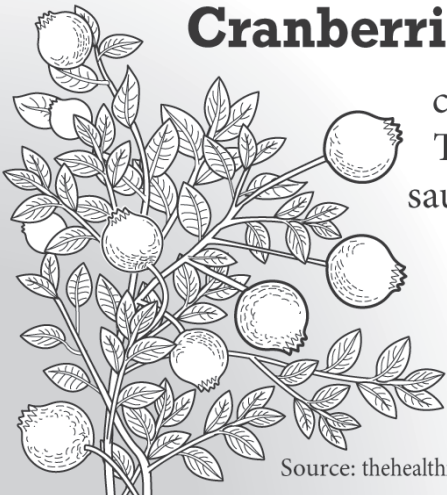
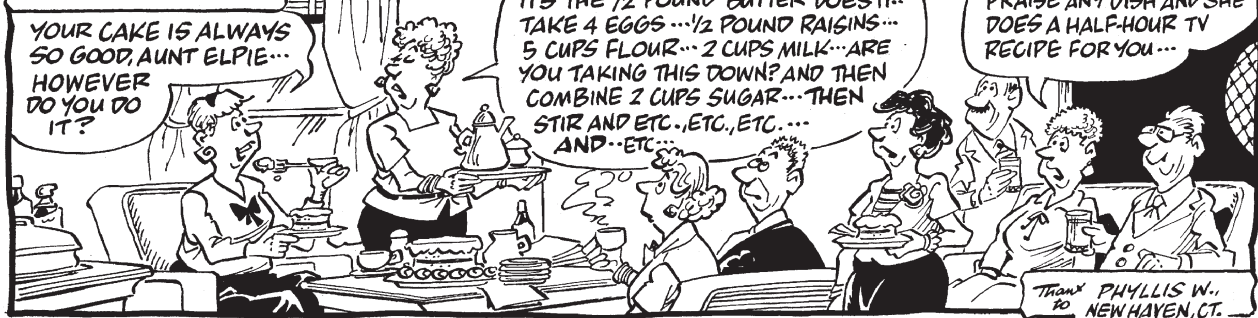
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

### MEDICAL DISPUTE DEPT—



### SORRY I ASKED—



Sassamanash (the native American word for this autumn fruit) grows in boggy areas on evergreen shrubs up to 7 feet long and 2-8 inches high.

## Cranberries

In his 1588 book *The Land of Virginia*, Thomas Hariot describes local tribesmen offering gifts of containers of cranberries to Europeans. The first published recipe for cranberry sauce appeared in the *Pilgrim Cookbook* in 1663. Appreciation for this fruit grew, and in 1703 fresh cranberries were served at the Harvard University commencement dinner.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: thehealthmoderator.com

## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### Letters Reach Out to Troubled Vets

We've been in a stressful period for many long months, and now here come the holidays. It's going to be different this year: fewer (or no) family get-togethers, no parties, little shopping at stores ... in other words, a potentially lonely time for many veterans who are sad or anxious or who have PTSD.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has done a randomized evaluation of its Caring Letters Program to test the effects of sending a written letter every month to veterans who have called the Veteran Crisis Line. One result was that when asked, 85% of psychiatric patient veterans agreed or strongly agreed that they would

like to receive caring communication through the mail, and the period of time was monthly for one year. (This rated higher than receiving email or text messages.) Granted, given the setting, most of them said that contact with a mental health counselor or physician was preferred, but I expect that a message from a friend or acquaintance or another veteran would likely be just as welcome.

At this point, the Veteran Crisis Line has sent letters to 90,000 veterans over the past year.

What can you do? You can reach out to a veteran you suspect might be struggling, whether it's with suicidal thoughts or just loneliness. Monthly cards or letters in the mail to say hello are small things that can be huge to receive when someone is alone and struggling. Keep the communication brief, but caring.

If you honestly don't know any veterans who might be struggling right now, make a call to the chaplain of your local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars and ask if there's anyone they're worried about.

If you're going to do this, make a commitment to yourself right now that you'll do this monthly for a minimum of one year. The impact of your effort might be greater than you'll ever know.



CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Angels in Adoption

November is memorable for many things – including Election Day and the start of the holiday season – but it also marks the start of National Adoption Month.

In South Dakota, the average age of a child waiting to be adopted is nine years old. My youngest is eight – it’s heartbreaking knowing there are so many children my son’s age in need of a loving home.

There is hope for these children, though. Each year, I have the opportunity to nominate a family who’s opened their home to adoptive children as “Angels in Adoption.” This year, I nominated Chad and Kari Shields from Sioux Falls.

After having four of their own biological children, the Shields family decided they had room in their hearts for more kids. They adopted Oliver from China, and a year and a half later brought home Lily from China as well. Lily has significant medical needs that require out of state medical care.

The Shields family often opens their home to other families with adopted children – they provide a community and support network for families walking a similar path. The Shieldses are actively involved in the foster care community as well and provide temporary care for foster children and families.

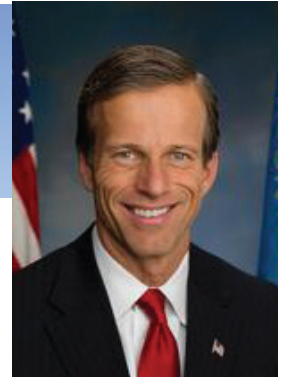
I hold deep admiration for families like the Shieldses who always seem to have more love to give.

Adoption is a blessing for both the children and the families, and I’m honored to highlight the stories of true Angels in Adoption like the Shields family. To learn more about adoption in South Dakota visit <https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/adoption/>.



**The  
Shields  
Family  
from  
Sioux  
Falls**

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Holding Big Tech Accountable

I was recently part of a Senate panel that held several of the nation's top big tech leaders accountable for the content moderation practices at each of their respective companies. The American people deserve to know how their information is being used, censored, and potentially exploited online. These companies have an obligation to explain it.

I questioned Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai about the perceived political bias that exists within the big tech community and how that might affect their companies' actions when it comes to suppressing or amplifying certain online content. I pressed them on whether or not they believed they were legitimate referees when it comes to political speech on social media platforms. In my opinion, it's not up to them to make those kinds of decisions, especially when it can have an effect on our democracy.

If you were an early adopter of social media, you've seen online platforms come, go, and evolve over the years. At their outset, platforms were comprised of a simple, sequential stream of user-generated content – pictures of your lunch or dinner, a status update on your weekend plans, or an article about a hot new restaurant opening downtown. In many cases, a dial-up internet connection and desktop computer were an integral part of logging on, scrolling, and posting.

Fast forward to today. Things have changed a bit, to say the least. Now you can access social media from nearly every corner of the planet (even from outer space) and from nearly any device with an internet connection: phones, tablets, watches, TVs, computers, and so on. And with the advancement of 5G wireless broadband technology, something I've fought hard for in Congress, you can access information faster than ever before.

Access and availability aren't the only things that have changed. Big tech leaders like Zuckerberg, Dorsey, and Pichai are now some of the most powerful people in the world because they, in many ways, shape and control the content that social media users see and consume online. They've developed high-powered, opaque algorithms – contained within a black box of sorts – that learn online behavior and deliver customized results based on what we search, see, and share online. How they do it is largely unknown, which is one of the reasons why they recently testified before Congress.

Some platforms have gone a step further – beyond delivering customized results and content – and have appeared to act as the arbiters of truth by moderating and censoring user-generated political content – political speech, essentially. Whether or not these companies believe they're acting as a referee, suppression of people's political speech is occurring. This kind of behavior is not what Congress envisioned when it crafted certain laws during the infancy of the internet, like when it created a liability shield that helped these companies grow. So, as social media platforms continue to evolve, so too must the laws that govern them.

As the former chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, this issue is very important to me. I've held multiple hearings on this topic over the years and have introduced several bipartisan pieces of legislation that would help strengthen online transparency and accountability.

In June, I introduced the bipartisan Platform Accountability and Consumer Transparency Act, or PACT Act. It would require internet platforms like Facebook and Twitter to make quarterly reports to the public outlining material they've removed from their sites or chosen to deemphasize. Sites would also be required to provide an easily digestible disclosure of their content moderation practices for users. And, importantly, they would be required to explain their decisions to remove material to consumers. They would need to create an appeals process for users, too.

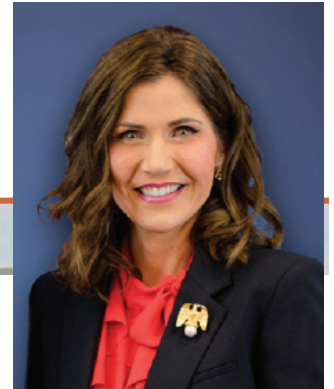
There's a growing bipartisan consensus that it's time to shed greater light on these secretive processes. I will continue to be a tireless advocate for the American people who, again, deserve to know how their information is being treated by big tech. This hearing is not the last you've heard from Congress on this issue. In many ways, we're just getting started.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## A Special Thanks to All Our Veterans

One of the things I appreciate most about those who served is that they didn't rely on someone else to protect freedom. Veterans didn't assume someone else would make the sacrifices so our kids could sleep safely in their beds every night. They raised their hand. They said yes to the call.

When I became governor, I told my team that I wanted to be a leader who shows gratitude to our veterans, but I don't just want to show gratitude in the words that I say. I want to take action to help our veterans. I want to enact policies that make their lives better. I want to say "thank you," both in word and in deed, to those that sacrifice their life so that we should go on living as a free people, free to choose our own destiny in this great nation.

South Dakota is setting an example for the nation. We've taken action to honor our veterans. In fact, a recent study by Smart Asset named South Dakota the "Best State for Veterans." We expanded the free tuition program for veterans to include technical colleges in addition to regents institutions. We started the Fallen Heroes bridge dedications to honor our heroes killed in combat. To date, seven state bridges have been named after South Dakota's fallen heroes.

We've increased property tax exemptions for veterans with disabilities. We authorized a new tax exemption for paraplegic or amputee veterans. We increased the number of beds at the Hot Springs Veterans Home, so that we can care for more veterans. And we broke ground on the first ever State Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Now, South Dakota families will have a final resting place for the heroes who have defended our country.

South Dakota has deployed nearly 9,000 soldiers and airmen in support of various operations since 9/11 alone. It's always such a privilege to welcome home units from deployment and to see moms and dads be reunited with their kids, spouses, and loved-ones. This past June, South Dakota welcomed home 69 soldiers with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Brigade (CSSB.) They had been deployed for 11 months in the Middle East as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. And in July, 110 soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company returned to South Dakota from a 10-month deployment in Europe. I cannot express how much gratitude I have for the sacrifices our soldiers are making to be away from their own families in service to our American family.

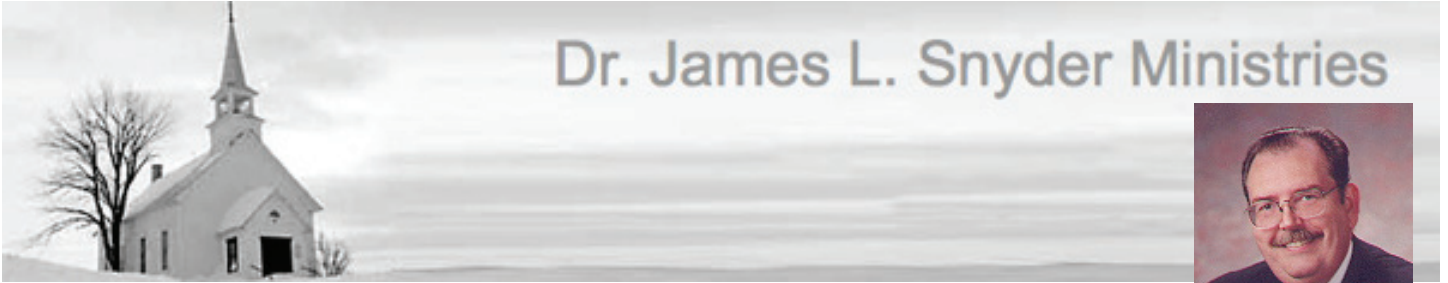
We also sent some South Dakota-based units out for deployment this year. In August, more than 190 soldiers with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade deployed to Djibouti to support Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, and in October, the 114th Fighter Wing began its rotation of up to 110 Airmen for deployments across the globe in support of a Reserve Component Period. The Airmen will deploy to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. One cannot put a price tag on time away from family. There are no makeup days for missed births, first steps, meal time conversations about the day, or the birthdays and holidays that our soldiers won't be there for during a deployment.

It's because of the readiness capabilities of our active duty military personnel that our country continues to be a shining beacon of freedom to all people around the world. Just this year, the Pierre-based 152nd CSSB won Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award for excellence, meaning they are the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the nation. They won the award last year as well, and in 2018, South Dakota's 139th Brigade Support Battalion were the recipients. You read that right; for three years running, South Dakota has had the very best Army National Guard troops in the entire nation.

As a fellow American, I am grateful to live in a nation protected by citizen soldiers who are willing to answer the call to fight terror across the world. I commend our Veterans for their leadership, bravery, and willingness to work toward peace and stability around the globe. This Veterans Day, I encourage you to take a moment and personally thank one of South Dakota's 65,000 veterans. Thank our active duty servicemen and women. Thank their families, too. And to all the veterans and military personnel reading this, thank you for your service to our state and our country. South Dakota will always honor you. God bless you, and Happy Veterans Day!

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## When Everything Goes My Way

I have had a certain dream many times over the years. Of course, it might lean towards being a nightmare if it does not come true.

The dream is that one day in the week; I can have everything go my way. The nightmare part of that dream is that it never tells me which day everything will go my way.

One morning I told the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage about my dream to see if she could give me any advice.

"Don't you remember," my wife said, "that day was three years ago? You already had that day when everything goes your way."

That was as specific as she would get. She never would tell me which day it was that everything went my way. I am just a little bit suspicious about all of that. If I had a day where everything went my way, I certainly would have remembered it.

So, for a week I have been trying to figure out what today would look like when everything went my way. I came up with a variety of scenarios, but nothing came together for me.

Last night, as we watched television, I seemed to be staring off into space. My wife said, "You're not thinking about a day when everything goes your way, are you?"

"No," I said, with a smile, "I'm just thinking about a joke."

"Okay, what joke were you thinking of?"

Without thinking, I said, "Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7...8...9."

"Will you ever get over that joke?" And we both laughed.

I think, of course, she knew I was not thinking of a joke. I was thinking of what the day would be like if everything went my way. I just could not get it out of my mind.

One of the first things that would be a part of that day would be every time my wife asked me a question; I would understand the question and give her an answer that satisfied her.

Once in a while, I will answer her, and she seems happy with the answer. But never two in a row. What would a day look like for me if every time my wife asked me a question, I answered, according to her specifications?

I am sure that would be a rather frightening day, especially for her.

As I was thinking about this, another thought came to mind. What would a day look like when I could accomplish everything on my 'To-Do-List' and have time left over for something else, like fun?

Thinking about that made me smile because I can't ever think of the time when I had a day quite like that. Usually, I conclude a day thinking about the things I did not get to that day. That is what my day looks like.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew I was thinking along this line, and so she said most cheerfully, "What would a day look like for you if you never thought of an Apple fritter?"

Only she would come up with something like that. As far as I am concerned, that would be a terrible day. So, that's scratched off.

Another thought grabbed my mind. What would a day look like if I could anticipate every question the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would throw in my direction and have the answer on my tongue?

What would a day look like for me if I stopped and bought my wife a present before I came home? A gift that when I gave it to her, she would laugh and say, "I was just thinking about going and getting this

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for me. How did you think of this?"

The more I thought about this, the more I understood that if I had so many days where everything went my way, my life would become rather dull. It is the unexpected things in life that make life really exciting and challenging.

If I could plan everything out and do everything I planned, I would get so bored I would not know what to do.

Thinking about this, I thought, how in the world has the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage managed to do this every day of her life?

What would our house look like if both of us had everything go our way every day? How could we tell each other apart?

Maybe I could handle one day when everything goes my way, but I certainly do not want every day to be just like that.

As I thought about this, I was smiling, and my wife inquired why I was smiling. I finally confessed, "I've concluded that I don't want every day to go my way. That would be so boring."

"You know," she said very seriously, "I think you've got something there."

Therefore, our house is divided into two sections.

The one section is my wife, where everything goes her way, and I am happy.

The other section is me, where everything does not go my way, and my wife is happy.

I cannot believe that I discovered the formula for both of us being happy under the same roof. Why did it take me so long to figure this out?

I could not help but think of one of my favorite passages of Scripture. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

In this, my wife and I are in full agreement.

## #258 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I am reminded of a word game I used to play with my (nearly perfect) grandson where we would take a concept and stretch it to its most superlative descriptor; for example, he would do something to poke at me and I would say, "I don't like that." So he would do it again, and I would say, "I'm annoyed." Then we'd progress through bothered, irritated, upset, provoked, distressed, frustrated, angry, furious, infuriated, enraged, and livid to apoplectic with him giggling all the while. I feel a little that way now when I need to keep coming up with ever more emphatic ways to say how bad things are for us right now in this pandemic. Only no one's giggling. Because, you see, things are very, very bad. Worse than that. These are numbers you would never use as an example to teach the concept of exponential growth because everyone would say that's not a situation that would happen in real life—only this is real life and it's happening.

On a weekend, when numbers tend to run low, we reported our third-day-in-a-row record number of new cases: 133,000, a 1.4% increase from yesterday's total. And so today, we're at 9,948,400, and I do not see any way we don't hit 10 million tomorrow, Sunday reporting be damned. In record time. Shortest million we've added was the last one at 14 days; tomorrow will be 10 days since we hit nine million. This is horrifying, and with the trajectory we're on, we haven't seen the worst.

At least 41 states are reporting more cases this week than last week, and only one is trending toward fewer. At least 24 have reported more cases this week than in any other seven-day stretch since we started this thing. New states that haven't really been on our radar are now reporting single-day records: Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming. Illinois reported record new-case numbers for a third consecutive day and over 10,000 new cases for two days in a row. Washington reported a record number of new cases today. Colorado is averaging 138% more daily cases than it was two weeks ago. North Dakota has reported more than 500 new cases for the third consecutive day. Indiana has set records for four consecutive days. Other states reporting record numbers of cases today were Alaska, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia.

Hospitalizations are soaring across the country too; currently more than 54,800 people are hospitalized due to Covid-19. The health care system is under severe strain in much of the country. Colorado officials say their hospitalizations are increasing more sharply than last week are now at record levels, and that keeping hospitals below capacity "will require substantial and rapid action to prevent transmission." They are expecting, on their current trajectory, to exceed ICU capacity in late December. Ohio hospitals are approaching a critical point; Colorado's governor warns they're in the same trouble.

We recorded over 1000 new deaths today for the fifth consecutive day. We're at 237,541 deaths, 0.5% more than yesterday, having added another 1098 to the toll today. That's a lot of empty chairs at the dinner table. Deaths are increasing in 27 states.

I wish I could stop reporting outbreaks linked to churches, but if I do, it won't be this week. We have another one, this time in Massachusetts. This is a cluster of 200 cases associated with church gatherings in mid-October and causing wider spread in the area. In a community of only 40,000, there have been over 200 cases affecting more than 7 businesses. More than 80% of those who tested positive have experienced symptoms; I'm not sure whether there is something special about this outbreak or there just wasn't enough testing to get a grasp on the extent of the outbreak. This has raised some questions about the planned reopening of the city.

The CDC issued a report just over a week ago based on a study of just over 100 patients in Tennessee and Wisconsin and 191 of their household contacts. The purpose of the study was to ascertain patterns of transmission from an initial household case. Findings were that the virus can spread quickly through a household and substantial transmission occurred whether that initial case was an adult or a child. Everyone in a household was not necessarily infected, but transmission is an issue. In this study, 53% of children under the age of 12 spread the infection, whereas 38% of those 12 to 17 did.

About half of household contacts became infected within a week of the first patient's diagnosis. Many were asymptomatic, which as we've well known for quite some time, is problematic in working out the



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potential for transmission because those folks infect others without being aware of their infected status. But knowing what we know now, it would be a good idea to reassess our estimates of the infection risk from an infected child.

Jessica Ong is 14, and she'd been looking around her during this pandemic, wondering what she could do to help some of the people so affected by its consequences. She said, "I think a lot of teenagers nowadays we feel so helpless right now and it's really hard. We don't know what to do, but what we can do is give that support to people in the form of a card." So she started sending them—to patients, to seniors, and to hospital workers.

And she conceived the idea that other people might find the same satisfaction she felt when she sent these messages out, and so she started a campaign that reaches far beyond her own efforts, spreading the word on Instagram. She calls it Cards4Kindness. The project now has more than 380 ambassadors around the world participating in the same process.

She has received messages back from some of her recipients, one of whom told her his card resides in a permanent spot in his home office. She says, "It's just so heartwarming." She says she feels empowered by taking action in this difficult time and wants other teens to feel the same way. "We're kind of looked over because of our age sometimes, but this kind of lets us know that our voice is just as powerful."

So Ong and her ambassadors continue their mission to ease others' way just a bit. One card she wrote for a health care worker reads as follows: "Thank you to the healthcare workers for everything you've done, we recognize how hard you worked and we wish that we could be there with you, but we want you to know that we support you and we're here for you and that even though you can't see us, we want you to know we're behind you."

To have an impact on the world, you don't have to do great things; you just have to do something. Even something small. Even for a stranger. Even if you're a kid. Ong is a good role model for all of us at any age. Step up.

Take care. We'll talk again.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8
Minnesota	156,313	160,070	164,865	170,307	174,954
Nebraska	74,060	75,888	78,012	80,693	82,395
Montana	35,159	35,955	36,968	37,947	38,948
Colorado	114,709	117,637	121,006	124,469	127,967
Wyoming	12,399	12,675	12,954	13,871	14,045
North Dakota	47,187	48,301	49,837	51,602	53,204
South Dakota	48,854	49,791	51,151	52,639	
United States	9,385,324	9,488,591	9,610,965	9,744,491	9,861,898
US Deaths	232,635	233,734	234,944	236,155	237,123

Minnesota	3,379	3,757	+4,795	+5,442	+4,647
Nebraska	1,440	1,828	+2,124	+2,681	+1,702
Montana	+907	+796	+1,013	+979	+1,001
Colorado	+2,562	+2,928	+3,369	+3,463	+3,498
Wyoming	+340	+276	+279	+917	+174
North Dakota	+1,172	1,114	+1,536	+1,765	+1,602
South Dakota	+1,004	+937	+1,360	+1,488	
United States	+92,043	+103,267	+122,374	+133,526	+117,407
US Deaths	+1,069	+1,099	+1,210	+1,211	+968

	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 01	Nov. 02	Nov. 3
Minnesota	137,536	139,444	142,311	145,465	148,472	150,672	152,934
Nebraska	65,376	66,545	68,150	69,645	70,732	70,732	72,620
Montana	29,346	29,966	30,853	31,916	32,801	33,495	34,252
Colorado	98,733	100,208	102,014	104,426	107,350	109,910	112,147
Wyoming	10,035	10,288	10,589	11,020	11,276	11,638	12,059
North Dakota	39,130	39,907	41,130	42,483	43,916	45,043	46,015
South Dakota	39,494	40,589	41,507	44,559	45,992	47,324	47,850
United States	8,779,794	8,859,432	8,947,862	9,048,430	9,127,108	9,208,876	9,293,281
US Deaths	226,728	227,703	228,675	229,711	230,566	231,003	231,566

Minnesota	+2,164	1,908	+2,867	+3,154	+3,007	+2,200	2,262
Nebraska	+877	1,169	+1,605	+1,495	+1,087	----	1,888
Montana	+845	+620	+887	+1,063	+885	+694	+757
Colorado	+1,433	1,475	+1,806	+2,412	+2,924	2,560	2,237
Wyoming	+252	+253	+301	+431	+256	+362	+421
North Dakota	+896	+781	1,222	+1,353	+1,434	+1,128	+972
South Dakota	+984	+1,095	+918	+1,560	+1,433	+1,332	+529
United States	+74,667	+79,638	+88,430	+100,568	+78,678	+81,768	+84,405
US Deaths	+989	+975	+972	+1,036	+855	+437	+563

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## November 7th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Mass testing through South Dakota will be held starting next week in 10 South Dakota communities. The laboratory eTrueNorth will be conducting the tests and providing results. After registering, individuals will receive an appointment and a test voucher that must be printed and brought to the testing site. People without appointments will only be tested if time slots are not full. Communities with test sites are:

PIERRE - National Guard Armory, 3440 E. Hwy. 34 (Nov. 10, 7-5, and Nov. 11, 8-5)

MOBRIDGE - National Guard Armory, 1213 Lake Front Dr. (Nov. 11, 8-5)

ABERDEEN - Fairgrounds, 400 24th Ave. NW (Nov. 12-13, 8-5, Nov. 14, 8-noon)

CHAMBERLAIN / OACOMA - Oacoma Community Center, 100 E. 3rd St. (Nov. 14, 8-5)

WATERTOWN - National Guard Armory, 1951 N. Hwy. 20 (Nov. 15-16, 8-5)

MADISON - Baughman Park, 1100 3rd St. SE (Nov. 17, Noon-6, Nov. 18, 8-5)

YANKTON - Mall Parking Lot, 2101 Broadway Ave. (Nov. 17, Noon-6, Nov. 18, 8-5)

MARTIN - Post 240 American Legion, 210 East Bennett Ave. (Nov. 20, 9-6)

CUSTER - Custer Search & Rescue, 1073 Montgomery St. (Nov. 20, 8-5)

SPEARFISH - Spearfish High School, 1725 N. Main St. (Nov. 21-22, 8-5)

Here is the website to register: <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com>

Breakdown of death numbers: Female-8, Male-5. 80+=8, 70s=2, 60s=1, 50s=1, 30s=1. Brown-1, Davison-1, Grant-1, Lawrence-1, Lincoln-1, Oglala Lakota-1, Roberts-1, Spink-2, Todd-2, Tuner-2.

Glacial Lakes hospital beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients as well as Minnehaha and Pennington counties: Walworth: 3 (-2) Occupied Beds; Potter: 2 (0) Occupied Beds; Hughes: 12 (0) Occupied Beds, 6 (0) ICU Beds, 2 (-1) Ventilation; Faulk: 2 (0) Occupied Beds; Edmunds: 5 (0) Occupied Bed; Brown: 19 (+3) Occupied Beds, 3 (-1) ICU, 0 (0) Ventilation; Spink: 5 (+2) Occupied Beds; Day: 3 Occupied Beds; Marshall: 1 (+1) Occupied Beds; Grant: 1 (0) Occupied Beds; Codington: 21 (-1) Occupied Beds, 2 (+1) ICU, 1 (+1) Ventilation; None (some counties have no hospitals): Clark, Hand, Hyde, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, McPherson, Roberts; Minnehaha: 239 (+8) Occupied Beds, 57 (+4) ICU, 53 (+0) Ventilation; Pennington: 78 (+8) Occupied Beds, 14 (-1) ICU, 7 (-1) Ventilation

Brown County:

Total Positive: +68 (2,444) Positivity Rate: 20.2%

Total Tests: +337 (20,001)

Recovered: +70 (1,914)

Active Cases: +54 (524)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (127)

Deaths: +0 (6)

Percent Recovered: 78.3%

Hospital Reports:

Avera St. Luke's: Covid-19 Occupied 17 (+3); ICU

3 (-1), Ventilation 0 (0).

Sanford Aberdeen: Covid-19 Occupied 2 (0).

Sanford Webster: Covid-19 Occupied 3 (0).

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

South Dakota:

Positive: +1337 (52,639 total) Positivity Rate: 26.5%

Total Tests: 5051 (470,404 total)

Hospitalized: +85 (3,108 total). 515 currently hospitalized +22)

Deaths: +13 (523 total)

Recovered: +700 (38,403 total)

Active Cases: +624 (15,050)

Percent Recovered: 73.0%

Total COVID-19 Occupied Beds: 515 (+22), Black Hills Region 117 (+8), Glacial Lakes Region 78 (+3) Sioux Empire Region 255 (+3), South Central Plains 65 (+8).

ICU Units: Total 101 (+6), BH 18 (+0), GL 11 (+0), SE 59 (+4), SCP 13 (+2).

Ventilation: Total 65 (+1), BH 7 (-1), GL 3 (+0), SE 53 (+0), SCP 2 (+2).

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 19% Covid, 47% Non-Covid, 34% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 34% Covid, 36% Non-Covid, 30% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 16% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 71% Available

Beadle (19) +49 positive, +20 recovered (453 active cases)

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Brown (7): +57 positive, +37 recovered (543 active cases)

Clark (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (58 active cases)

Clay (8): +11 positive, +2 recovered (171 active cases)

Codington (16): +45 positive, +8 recovered (510 active cases)

Davison (12): +56 positive, +13 recovered (559 active cases)

Day (3): +1 positive, +3 recovered (41 active cases)

Edmunds (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (47 active cases)

Faulk (3): +1 positive, +7 recovered (46 active cases)

Grant (4): +13 positive, +5 recovered (86 active cases)

Hanson (1): +5 positive, +3 recovered (60 active cases)

Hughes (8): +31 positive, +7 recovered (232 active cases)

Lawrence (8): +42 positive, +19 recovered (457 active cases)

Lincoln (30): +57 positive, +43 recovered (1051 active cases)

Marshall (3): +1 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)

McCook (3): +10 positive, +3 recovered (135 active cases)

McPherson (1): +0 positive, +0 recovery (9 active case)

Minnehaha (123): +295 positive, +255 recovered (3709 active cases)

Potter: +13 positive, +10 recovered (69 active cases)

Roberts (8): +19 positive, +0 recovered (125 active cases)

Spink (3): +18 positive, +2 recovered (137 active cases)

Walworth (10): +9 positive, +2 recovered (64 active cases)

## NORTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Daily Report, Nov. 7:

- 13.9% rolling 14-day positivity
- 1,615 new positives
- 9,574 susceptible test encounters
- 240 currently hospitalized (+2)
- 10,325 active cases (+511)
- 628 total deaths (+15)

## Global Cases

**49,938,804**

9,861,898 US

8,507,754 India

5,653,561 Brazil

1,760,420 Russia

1,709,773 France

1,328,832 Spain

1,236,851 Argentina

1,174,778 United Kingdom

1,136,447 Colombia

961,938 Mexico

920,010 Peru

902,490 Italy

## Global Deaths

**1,252,079**

237,123 deaths  
US

162,269 deaths  
Brazil

126,121 deaths  
India

94,808 deaths  
Mexico

48,978 deaths  
United Kingdom

41,063 deaths  
Italy

40,220 deaths  
France

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	239	163	734	2	Substantial	32.35%
Beadle	1612	1140	4167	19	Substantial	29.07%
Bennett	249	150	978	5	Substantial	30.38%
Bon Homme	1149	840	1651	3	Substantial	55.73%
Brookings	1729	1314	6881	9	Substantial	19.72%
Brown	2501	1951	8980	7	Substantial	27.09%
Brule	379	261	1453	3	Substantial	36.05%
Buffalo	302	255	801	5	Substantial	46.99%
Butte	486	281	2207	4	Substantial	27.13%
Campbell	85	70	170	1	Moderate	23.68%
Charles Mix	519	344	3096	1	Substantial	15.32%
Clark	158	99	712	1	Substantial	32.88%
Clay	947	768	3515	8	Substantial	23.02%
Codington	1928	1402	6704	16	Substantial	29.43%
Corson	266	187	800	2	Substantial	67.01%
Custer	374	294	1818	4	Substantial	21.48%
Davison	1390	819	4693	12	Substantial	31.08%
Day	196	152	1247	3	Substantial	26.88%
Deuel	221	173	819	1	Substantial	28.41%
Dewey	520	271	3413	2	Substantial	29.36%
Douglas	215	149	715	5	Substantial	16.28%
Edmunds	177	129	760	1	Substantial	8.12%
Fall River	250	190	1885	6	Substantial	18.89%
Faulk	242	193	526	3	Substantial	11.76%
Grant	375	285	1550	4	Substantial	15.04%
Gregory	302	197	886	10	Substantial	33.10%
Haakon	108	77	424	2	Substantial	5.22%
Hamlin	264	187	1289	0	Substantial	15.77%
Hand	192	103	595	1	Substantial	44.78%
Hanson	141	80	482	1	Substantial	35.94%
Harding	63	40	113	0	Substantial	59.09%
Hughes	1047	807	3956	8	Substantial	16.97%
Hutchinson	305	199	1670	2	Substantial	12.09%

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Hyde	66	41	306	0	Moderate	23.68%
Jackson	153	94	773	4	Substantial	30.77%
Jerauld	185	144	400	13	Moderate	25.93%
Jones	42	31	135	0	Moderate	26.67%
Kingsbury	268	154	1111	4	Substantial	20.74%
Lake	526	356	1987	9	Substantial	36.59%
Lawrence	1295	830	5788	8	Substantial	27.21%
Lincoln	3598	2517	13894	30	Substantial	31.31%
Lyman	326	259	1442	7	Substantial	21.83%
Marshall	75	58	795	3	Moderate	9.30%
McCook	361	223	1145	3	Substantial	31.25%
McPherson	72	62	417	1	Moderate	4.46%
Meade	1176	892	5368	10	Substantial	24.64%
Mellette	107	78	576	1	Substantial	47.22%
Miner	161	110	433	2	Substantial	6.45%
Minnehaha	14116	10284	55120	123	Substantial	28.77%
Moody	293	188	1424	4	Substantial	34.21%
Oglala Lakota	1229	684	5685	11	Substantial	33.07%
Pennington	5639	4049	26631	51	Substantial	19.26%
Perkins	94	67	479	0	Moderate	17.86%
Potter	173	104	618	0	Substantial	17.89%
Roberts	453	320	3333	8	Substantial	23.31%
Sanborn	156	73	472	1	Substantial	28.57%
Spink	390	250	1673	3	Substantial	16.81%
Stanley	124	85	559	0	Substantial	20.34%
Sully	59	40	178	0	Moderate	35.29%
Todd	577	440	3495	10	Substantial	46.36%
Tripp	326	257	1170	2	Substantial	12.45%
Turner	603	397	1916	29	Substantial	38.89%
Union	887	690	4262	16	Substantial	19.68%
Walworth	312	238	1349	10	Substantial	14.05%
Yankton	1072	737	6418	7	Substantial	10.57%
Ziebach	131	81	578	2	Substantial	32.26%
Unassigned	0	0	1087	0		

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## South Dakota



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

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1680	0
10-19 years	5645	0
20-29 years	10781	2
30-39 years	9209	8
40-49 years	7701	15
50-59 years	7676	38
60-69 years	5916	72
70-79 years	3074	103
80+ years	2294	285

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	27853	255
Male	26123	268

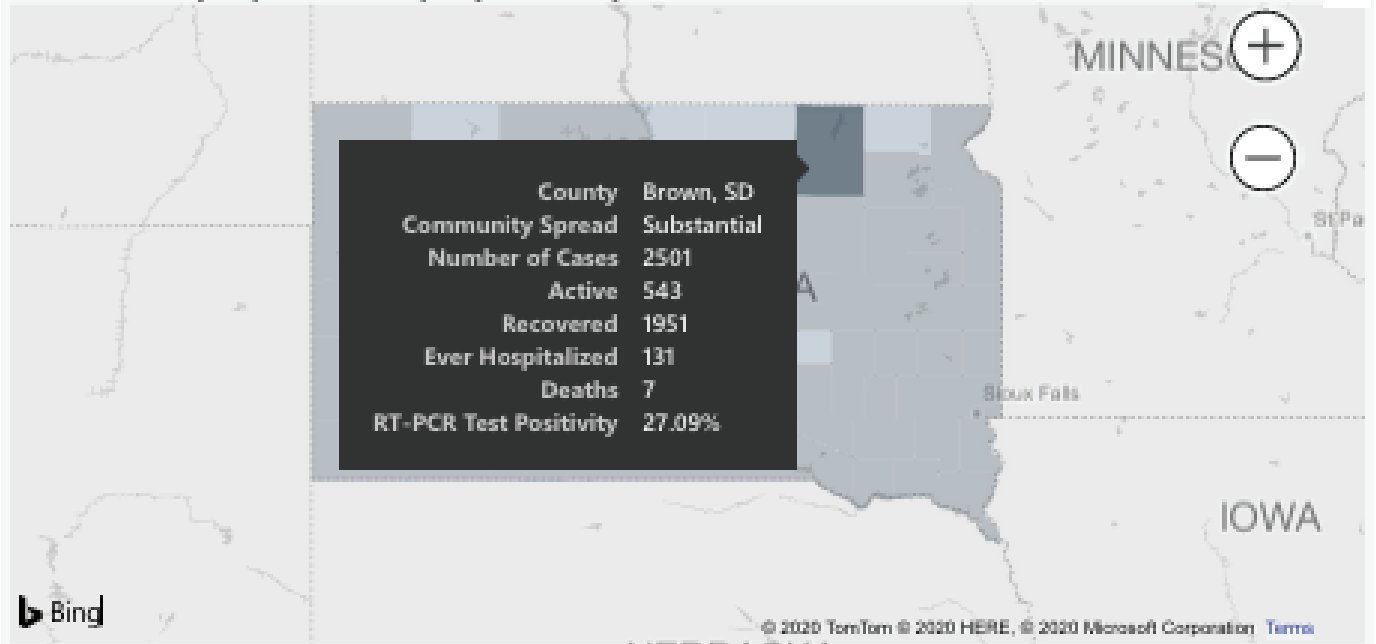
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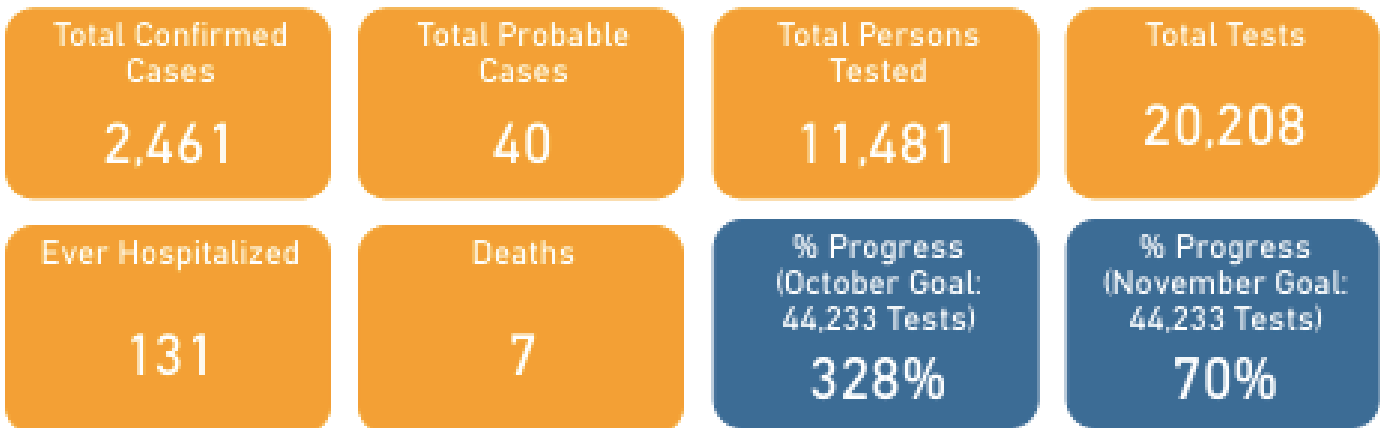
## Brown County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.





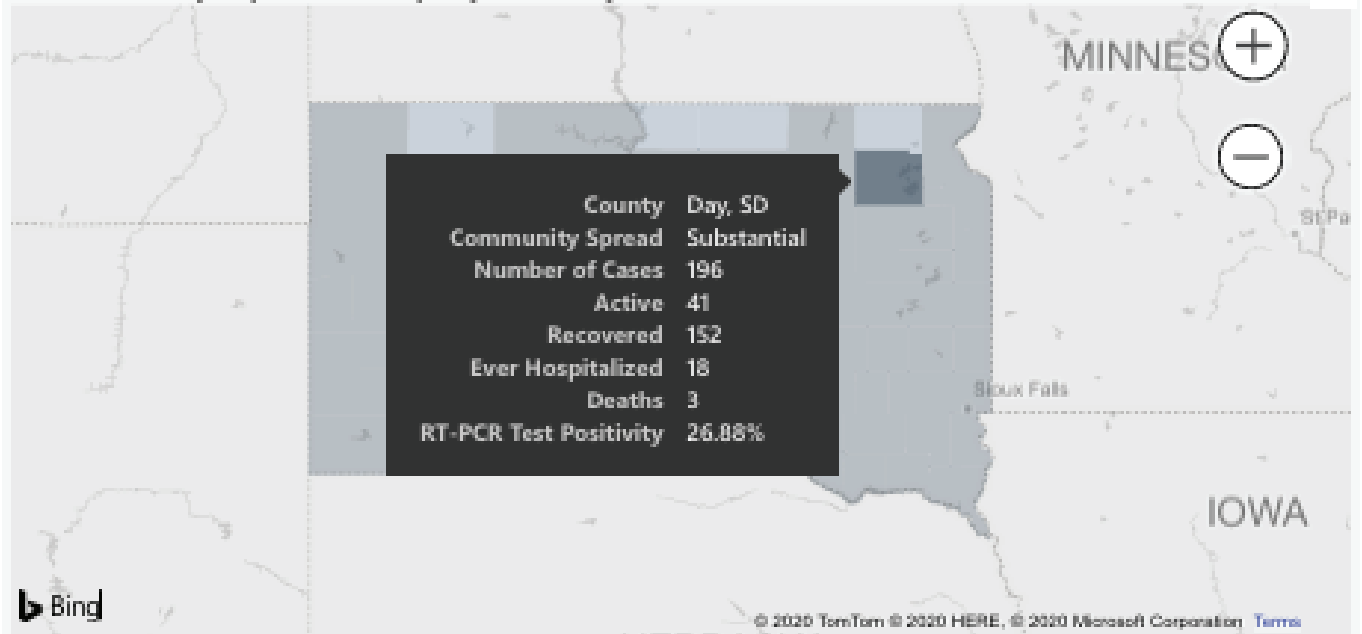
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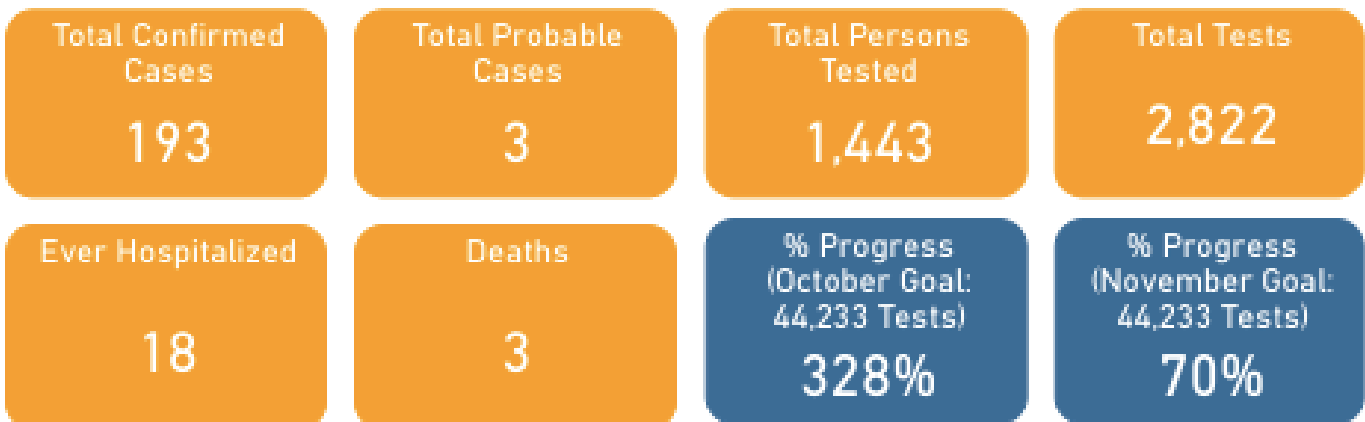
## Day County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



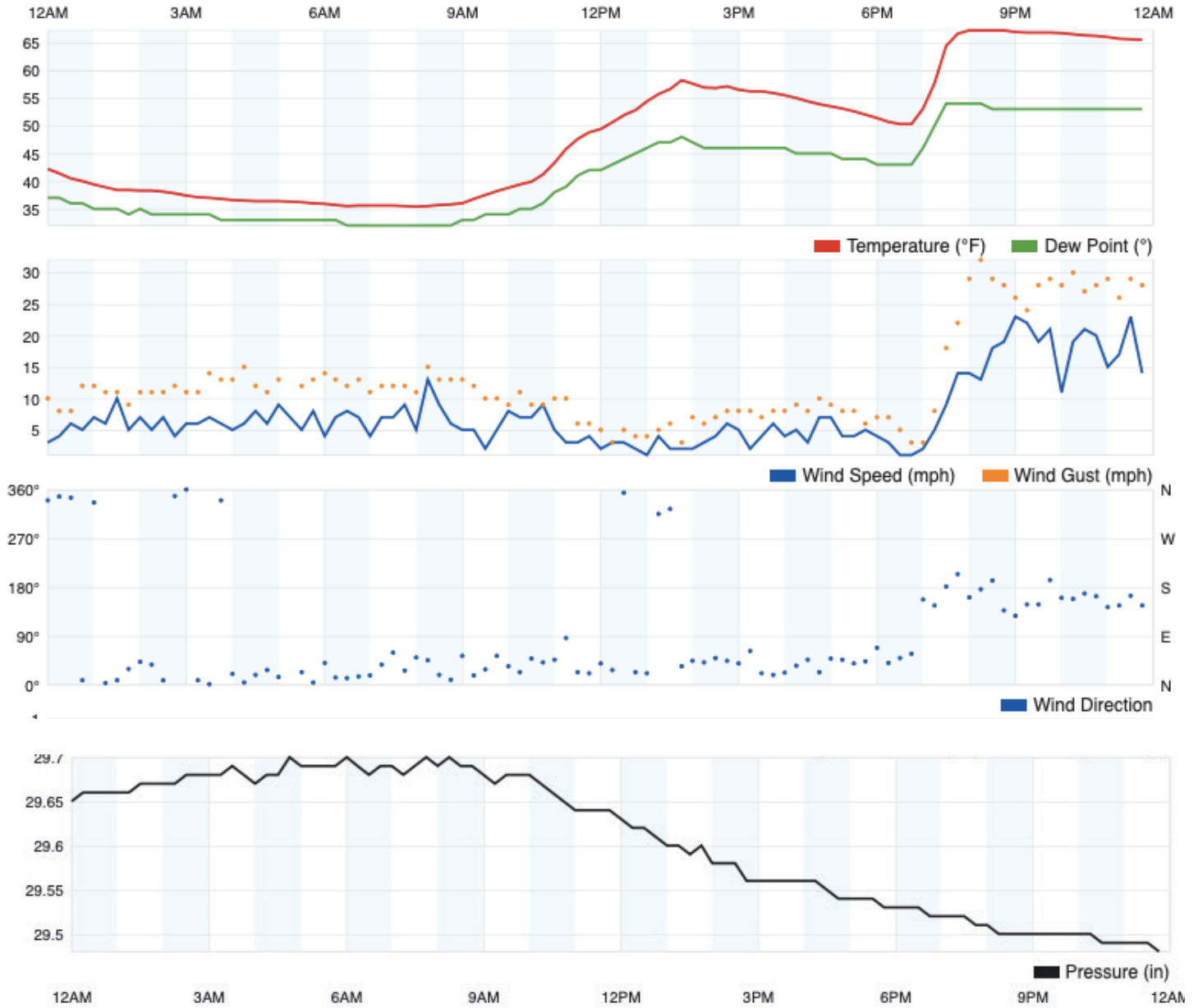
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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**Wind Advisory**

**Today**



Windy. Mostly Sunny then Chance Rain

**High: 69 °F**

**Tonight**



Increasing Clouds

**Low: 29 °F**

**Monday**



Chance Snow then Slight Chance Rain/Snow

**High: 33 °F**

**Monday Night**



Mostly Clear

**Low: 18 °F**

**Tuesday**

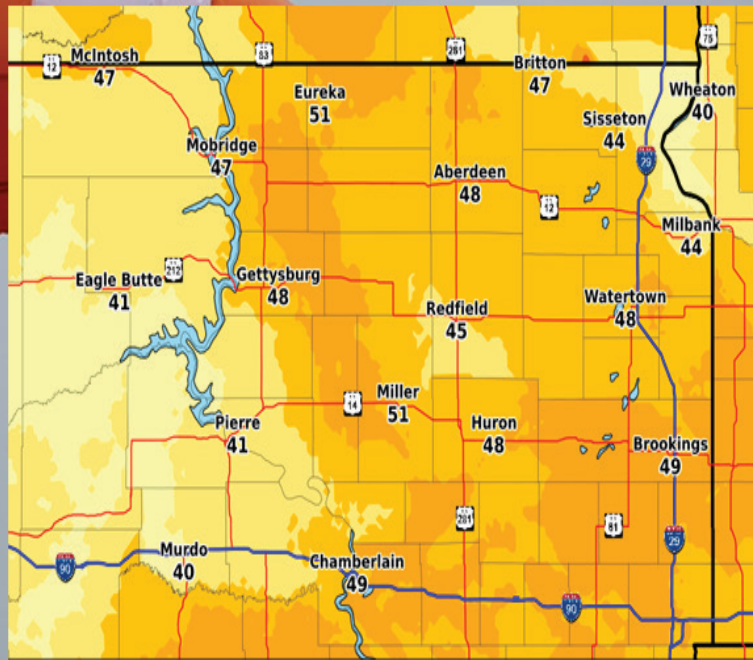


Sunny

**High: 37 °F**

## Windy and Warm Today

A few showers of rain are possible today along with an occasional rumble of thunder



Maximum Wind Gusts Today



Updated: 11/8/2020 3:43 AM Central

Windy and warm conditions are expected today with southerly winds gusting 45 to 55 mph and temperatures reaching the mid-60s to low 70s. A few showers are expected today as well with the occasional rumble of thunder possible. Additional showers, some in the form of snow, are possible Monday as well. Accumulations are expected to be limited, if at all.

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## Today in Weather History

November 8, 1985: Heavy snow fell over much of southern South Dakota beginning on the morning of the 8th and continued through the evening of the 10th. Snowfall ranged from 5-10 inches over the area, with amounts up to a foot or more in the Black Hills. The most significant amount was 18 inches in the higher elevations of the Black Hills. Winds gusting to near 40 mph at times, combined with the snowfall, produced near-blizzard conditions during the afternoon of the 9th through the early morning hours on the 10th, in the southwest. Highway 79 from Maverick Junction to Rapid City was closed for thirteen hours. Many accidents were reported over the entire southern portion of the state. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 16.0 inches near Presho; 11.5 inches in Kennebec; 9.0 inches in Murdo; and 4.0 inches in Timber Lake and near Onida.

1870: The U.S. Signal Corps Weather Service issued the first storm warning on this day. Professor Increase A. Lapham believed that warnings of deadly storms on the Great Lakes could be derived from telegraphed weather observations. A bill was introduced and signed into law to establish a national telegraphic weather service. The Signal Corps began taking observations of November 1, 1870. On this date, Lapham would issue the first storm warning, a cautionary forecast for the Great Lakes.

1879: A tornado struck Crawford County, Arkansas, killing several people.

1913: The Great Lakes Storm of November 7-13, 1913 was a blizzard with hurricane-force winds that devastated the Great Lakes Region, sinking as many as 19 ships and stranded 19 others. This storm would be the deadliest and most destructive natural disaster ever to hit the Great Lakes.

1943 - An early season snowstorm raged across eastern South Dakota and Minnesota into northern Wisconsin. The storm produced 22 inches of snow at Fairbault and Marshall MN, 20 inches at Redwood Falls MN, and 10.1 inches at Minneapolis. Drifts fifteen feet high were reported in Cottonwood County MN. The storm produced up to two feet of snow in South Dakota smothering a million Thanksgiving day turkeys. (6th-8th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Residents of New York City suffered through ten days of smog resulting in 200 deaths. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - The temperature in downtown San Francisco reached a November record of 86 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms over Texas produced locally heavy rains in the Hill Country, with 3.50 inches reported at Lakeway, and 3.72 inches reported at Anderson Mill. Thunderstorms over Louisiana produced hail an inch in diameter at Clay and at Provencial. Blustery northwest winds, ushering cold air into western Kansas and into northwest Texas, gusted to 46 mph at Hill City KS. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fair weather prevailed across much of the nation for Election Day. Midland TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees, and the record high of 87 degrees at Roswell NM was their fifth in eight days. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along and ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northern Louisiana into central Georgia. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes, and there were sixty-four reports of large hail or damaging winds. A late afternoon thunderstorm in central Georgia spawned a tornado which killed one person and injured eight others at Pineview. Late afternoon thunderstorms in central Mississippi produced baseball size hail around Jackson, and wind gusts to 70 mph Walnut Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994: The twelfth and final tropical cyclone of the Atlantic hurricane season formed on this day in the southwestern Caribbean. While Hurricane Gordon was only a Category 1, it still killed 1,149 individuals, including 1,122 in Haiti. Nov 8, 1994 Hurricane Gordon

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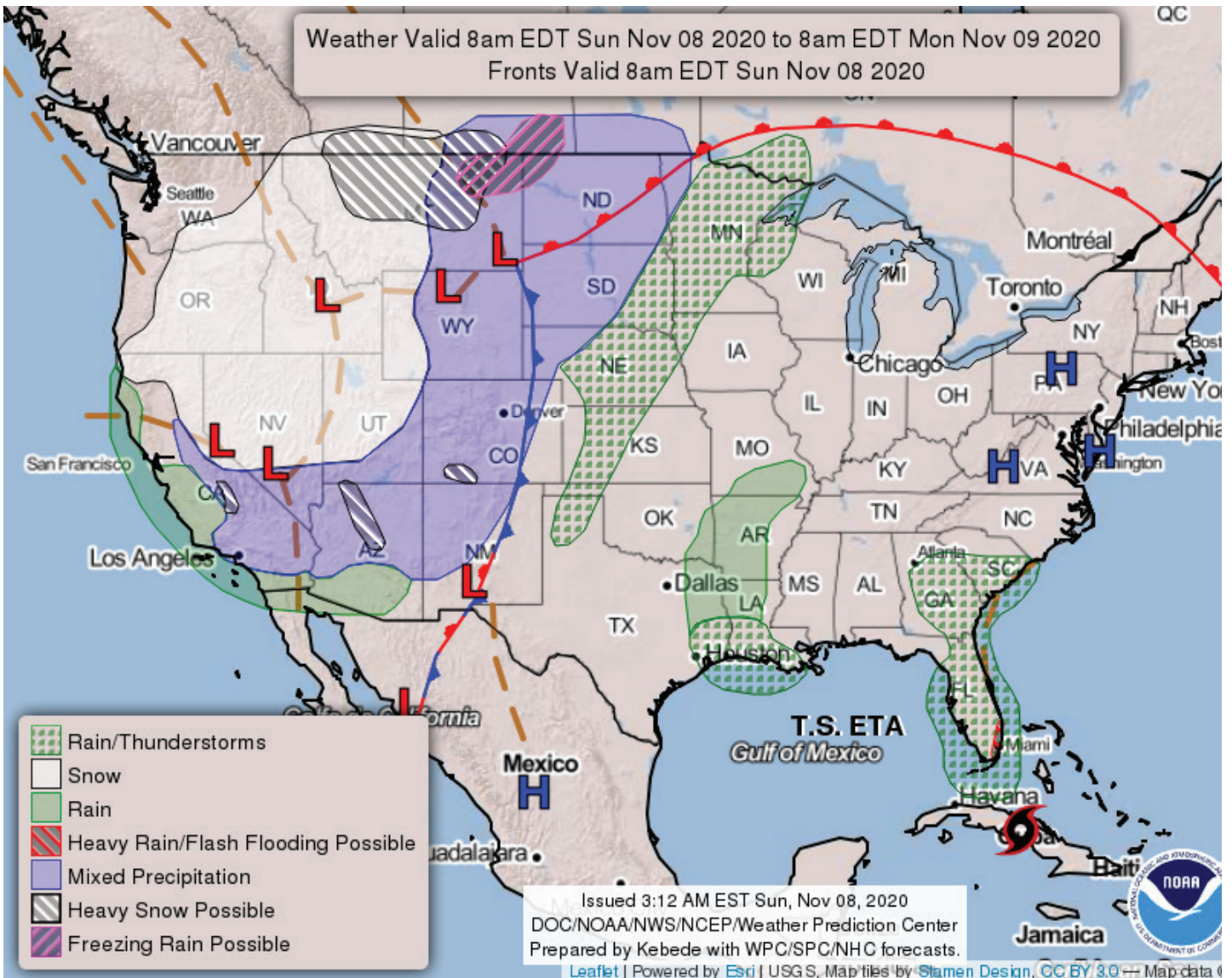
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 67 °F at 8:13 PM**  
**Low Temp: 35 °F at 7:42 AM**  
**Wind: 32 mph at 8:09 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 77° in 1999**  
**Record Low: -3° in 1936**  
**Average High: 44°F**  
**Average Low: 23°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.21**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.68**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:11 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:25 a.m.**



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## OUR WONDER WORKING GOD!

All of us know individuals whose lives have gone from pinnacles of prosperity to places of poverty. We know that temptations overtake some individuals, and they soon become enslaved and imprisoned by harmful habits. Once they were blest, but now they are in bondage. There seems to be a pattern of self-destruction that overcomes many who are not satisfied with the gifts of God. They apparently will not allow His grace and goodness to satisfy them. They always want "more!"

This is what happened to the people of Israel. It seems that the more God gave them, the less satisfied they were. Finally, their greed led them to slavery. But, thank God, their story does not end there. His love and mercy eventually brought redemption and restoration to them. When? When they repented and returned to the Covenant He made with them. God always keeps His Word.

Not only did He rescue them from their captors, but "they were laden down with silver and gold." When we allow God to rescue us by His grace, His Word promises us that "It is He who will supply all of our needs from His riches in glory because of what Jesus Christ has done for us." God will honor His Word with us, as He did with Israel.

He also empowers those whom He rescues: "From among their tribes no one faltered." When God rescues us, we are called to serve Him faithfully. He has a plan for each of our lives, and that plan contains many opportunities for us to honor and serve Him. And, for each of the opportunities He gives us, we know that He will equip and empower us, and we will not falter or fail if we are faithful to Him.

Prayer: Thank you Father for Your plan for our lives. Help us not to stray from it, but rescue and restore us to the plan You have for us. Help us to find joy in serving You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled. Psalm 105:37

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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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

03-13-23-29-32

(three, thirteen, twenty-three, twenty-nine, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$344,000

Lotto America

07-08-27-31-41, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 4

(seven, eight, twenty-seven, thirty-one, forty-one; Star Ball: one; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.1 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$152 million

Powerball

14-16-37-48-58, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, sixteen, thirty-seven, forty-eight, fifty-eight; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$149 million

### Doctors fear more death as Dakotas experience virus 'sorrow'

By STEPHEN GROVES and JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — With coronavirus cases running rampant in the Dakotas and elected leaders refusing to forcefully intervene, the burden of pushing people to take the virus seriously has increasingly been put on the families of those who have died.

The ranks of those who know what it means to lose someone they love to COVID-19 are on the rise. North Dakota and South Dakota have the nation's worst rate of deaths per capita over the last 30 days. Despite advances in treating COVID-19 patients, hundreds more people have died in recent weeks than during any other period — a grim exclamation point on the virus outbreak slamming the northern Plains and Upper Midwest.

In the Dakotas, the virus has shown few signs of slowing down. With winter approaching and hospitals scrambling to make room for COVID-19 patients, medical experts worry that virus deaths will continue to climb in a region where people have been slow to adopt mitigation measures like wearing masks. The Republican governors of both states have derided government orders to help halt the outbreaks, leaning on ideals of limited government.

The deaths have increasingly hit closer to home among many tight-knit communities: a priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fargo; a former school principal in De Smet; an elementary school employee in Sioux Falls; a North Dakota state legislative candidate.

"Sometimes I think it's not true," said Chris Bjorkman, who lost her husband, John Bjorkman, 66. "Sometimes I think he's going to walk through the door, but he hasn't yet, so I just keep waiting."

Bjorkman's family, who live in De Smet, a town in eastern South Dakota where Laura Ingalls Wilder once had a homestead, decided to publicly share his struggle with the virus because he loved serving the community. After a career as a teacher and school administrator, Bjorkman was a well-known figure, remembered for his fun-loving ways and care for children.

"I want people to know what COVID can do and how serious it is," Chris Bjorkman said.

The family experienced the crunch facing the health care system as John Bjorkman was flown to a hospital in Minnesota after his condition worsened. The family posted regular Facebook updates as he was transferred to an intensive care unit in Sioux Falls and placed on a ventilator.



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Doctors are unsure how many more cases like Bjorkman's that they can handle.

"At this time, we're headed in a direction of overwhelming our health care systems and I think that's closer than what people understand," said Dr. Michael Pietila, a critical care physician at the Yankton Medical Clinic.

The hospital systems in the Dakotas are an intricate network of critical access facilities in rural areas and small hospitals that depend on transferring patients to a handful of large hospitals in the region.

The rush of virus patients has dialed up the emotional and physical stress on hospital staff, even as they try to stay free from infections. During an interview with The Associated Press, Pietila was interrupted by the ping of an email notifying him that a number of hospital employees had tested positive for the virus.

"The COVID patients come in and they're sick for a long time — weeks at a time," he said. "A lot of these COVID patients don't get better. There's a lot of sorrow."

North Dakota reported that 309 people died from COVID-19 in the past 30 days, more than all other periods combined. The state shot to the top of the nation in deaths per capita in the last 30 days, with roughly 41 deaths per 100,000 people, according to data from Johns Hopkins. On Saturday, North Dakota reported 15 additional deaths and 1,615 new cases across the state.

South Dakota reported 252 deaths, a 98% increase in the last 30 days. It had a death rate of roughly 29 people per 100,000 over the last 30 days, according to the Johns Hopkins data. The state on Saturday recorded thirteen more deaths in addition to 1,337 new cases of COVID-19.

"The devastation that I'm seeing from people is just so disheartening," said Mike Henriksen, a South Dakota sports broadcaster who knew five people who died. "If we would simply be looking out for each other, we could prevent a lot of this."

The severity of the situation in the Dakotas has concerned medical experts across the country, like Dr. Ashish K. Jha, dean of the Brown School of Public Health. He called the Dakotas a "cautionary tale" of the consequences of ignoring the science of the virus and public health initiatives.

Jha noted that the region started experiencing a steep climb in cases after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, a two-week event that drew nearly 500,000 people. As infection numbers increase, Jha said, it becomes harder and harder to control the spread.

"It is a freight train going very fast and it is going to take enormous effort to stop it," he said.

Doctors are stunned that they are still struggling to persuade people to take precautions.

"When I go out and I don't see a significant number of people masking, that really worries me," Dr. Jawad Nazir, a clinical professor at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, said. "This is not going away."

On a tour of Bismarck, North Dakota, on Oct. 26, Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, shook her head at what she found, saying she saw less use of masks than anywhere else she's been in the country.

Yet the governors of both states have made it clear they won't issue mask mandates.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, who just won reelection, is adhering to what he calls a "light touch of government" and encouraging people to voluntarily wear face coverings. He also has refused to enforce limits on social gatherings and business occupancies.

In South Dakota, Noem has cast doubt on whether wearing masks in public is effective, saying that she'll leave it up to the people to decide. She has said the virus can't be stopped. The state's largest medical groups recently launched a campaign to make it clear that masks work.

More people who have experienced COVID-19 firsthand, including Republicans, are calling on the government to do more.

The speaker of North Dakota's House, Bismarck Republican Rep. Lawrence Klemin, spent four days at his 99-year-old mother's bedside, "holding her hand and watching her die" from COVID-19. Klemin said mask-wearing needs to be enforced.

"It really was a tough thing to experience," Klemin said of his mother's death. "I don't wish that to happen to anyone."

MacPherson reported from Bismarck, N.D.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

## South Dakota continues to post grim coronavirus records

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota continues to amass records as the COVID-19 pandemic surges across the state.

The Rapid City Journal reports that health officials report for the first time showed more than 500 people hospitalized, 15,000 active cases and deaths continued to climb above 500.

Thirteen more deaths were recorded Saturday. There have been 98 deaths in the first week of November after October set a record with 202 deaths in 31 days. There have been 523 deaths since the pandemic began.

There were 1,337 new cases reported Saturday on 2,493 tests for a positivity rate of 53.6%. There have now been 53,976 cases in the state with 15,050 of those still active.

There are 515 people being treated in hospitals across South Dakota - an increase of 22 since Friday. There are 101 people in intensive care units and 65 people on ventilators.

## Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-23, 25-23, 27-25

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Harrisburg, 25-22, 25-14, 16-25, 25-20

Watertown def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-14, 22-25, 25-7

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

## Body found in burning ditch in southeastern South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a man whose body was found in a burning ditch in southeastern South Dakota.

The Argus Leader reports a Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy reported a fire in a township road ditch east of Brandon at about 5:15 a.m. Saturday. The deputy then found the body in the ditch.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office is investigating a suspicious, unattended death.

Sheriff Michael Milstead said the victim has not been identified.

## Inmates escapes from Rapid City minimum-security prison

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in South Dakota are searching for an inmate who escaped from a minimum-security prison in Rapid City.

Prison officials say 38-year-old Ivan Good Plume left the Rapid City Community Work Center without authorization Friday night. Good Plume is serving an 18-year sentence from Pennington County for aggravated assault.

Authorities say walking away from a non-secure correctional facility without authorization could warrant a charge of second-degree escape, punishable by up to five years in prison.

## Azerbaijani leader: Forces seize key Nagorno-Karabakh city

MOSCOW (AP) — Azerbaijani forces have taken control of the strategically key city of Shushi in Nagorno-Karabakh where fighting with Armenia has raged for more than a month, the country's president said Sunday.

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In a televised address to the nation, President Ilham Aliyev said "Shusha is ours — Karabakh is ours," using the Azerbaijani version of the city's name.

However, Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Ovannisian said on Facebook after Aliyev's claim that "fighting in Shushi is continuing; wait and believe in our troops."

Shushi is of significant military value because it sits on heights about 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of the region's capital of Stepanakert and lies along the main road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia.

Nagorno-Karabakh is within Azerbaijan, but has been under the control of local ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994. The latest outbreak of fighting started on Sept. 27 and has left hundreds — if not thousands — dead.

Aliyev vowed to continue the fighting until Armenia withdraws from the territory.

Azerbaijan's chief ally Turkey welcomed the claimed victory.

"The joy of our Azerbaijani brothers who liberated their occupied cities and Karabakh step by step is also our joy," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at a rally in the northwestern city of Kocaeli.

## Eta makes landfall on Cuba as Guatemala searches for victims

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

PURULHA, Guatemala (AP) — A strengthened Tropical Storm Eta made landfall on Cuba early Sunday and had its sights set on the southern tip of Florida after leaving dozens dead and over 100 missing in Central America, where it hit last week as a major hurricane.

Eta breached Cuba even as searchers in Guatemala were still digging for people believed buried by a massive, rain-fueled landslide. Authorities say 15 people are confirmed dead and at least 109 are missing in Guatemala, many of them in the landslide in San Cristobal Verapaz.

Pope Francis on Sunday spoke about the population of Central America, hit "by a violent hurricane, which has caused many victims and huge damage, worsened as well by the already difficult situation due to the pandemic." Speaking to faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, Francis prayed that "the Lord welcome the deceased, comfort their families and sustain all those so tried, as well as all those who are doing their best to help them."

The U.S. National Hurricane Center issued tropical storm warnings for southern Florida and the Florida Keys, and warnings were issued for central Cuba; parts of southern Florida and the Keys were even put under a hurricane watch.

The Hurricane Center said Eta was located about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of Canagua, Cuba, Sunday morning and was moving north-northeast at 12 mph (19 kph). Maximum sustained winds had decreased slightly to 60 mph (95 kph). The system was expected to approach the Florida Keys and south Florida late Sunday or Monday.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Saturday for eight counties at the end of the state as Eta approached, urging residents to stock up on supplies. South Florida started emptying ports and a small number of shelters opened in Miami and the Florida Keys for residents in mobile homes and low lying areas.

Miami-Dade County declared a state of emergency Friday night and also warned a flood watch would be in effect through Tuesday night.

Further south in the Keys, officials were monitoring the storm closely, but had no plans yet to evacuate tourists or residents. They urged residents to secure their boats and encouraged visitors to consider altering plans until Eta had passed.

"Residents need to monitor this storm and be prepared for high tropical storm force sustained winds and hurricane strength gusts," said Shannon Wiener, Monroe County Emergency Management Director.

Eta was once a Category 4 hurricane, and authorities from Panama to Mexico were still surveying the damages following days of torrential rains during the week.

In Guatemala, search teams first had to overcome multiple landslides and deep mud just to reach the site where officials have estimated some 150 homes were devastated.

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In the worst-hit village, Quejá, at least five bodies have been pulled from the mud. The Indigenous community of about 1,200 residents consisted of simple homes of wood and tin roofs clinging to the mountainside.

Rescue workers used a helicopter to evacuate survivor Emilio Caal, who said he lost as many as 40 family members and relatives. Caal, 65, suffered a dislocated shoulder when the landslide sent rocks, trees and earth hurtling onto the home where he was about to sit down to lunch with his wife and grandchildren. Caal said he was blown several yards (meters) by the force of the slide, and that none of the others were able to get out.

"My wife is dead, my grandchildren are dead," said Caal from a nearby hospital.

In neighboring Honduras, 68-year-old María Elena Mejía Guadron died when the brown waters of the Chamelecon river poured into San Pedro Sula's Planeta neighborhood before dawn Thursday.

Mirian Esperanza Nájera Mejía had fled her home in the dark with her two children and Mejía, her mother. But while she held tight to her children, the current swept away Mejía.

Nájera searched desperately for her mother Friday morning. But Mejía's body was later recovered.

"When the flooding started, the whole family was leaving the house," said family friend Nery Solis. "Mirian had her two children and suddenly the current grabbed them and she wasn't able to get her mom."

In southern Mexico, across the border from Guatemala, 20 people died as heavy rains attributed to Eta caused mudslides and swelled streams and rivers, according to Chiapas state civil defense official Elías Morales Rodríguez.

The worst incident in Mexico occurred in the mountain township of Chenalho, where 10 people were swept away by a rain-swollen stream; their bodies were later found downstream.

Flooding in the neighboring state of Tabasco was so bad that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador cut short a trip to western Mexico and was flying to Tabasco, his home state, to oversee relief efforts.

Hurricane Eta's arrival in northeast Nicaragua Tuesday followed days of drenching rain as it crawled toward shore. Its slow, meandering path north through Honduras pushed rivers over their banks.

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Associated Press writer Marlon González in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Frances D'Emilio in Rome, Italy, contributed to this report.

## Johnson denies his Trump ties weaken UK-US bond under Biden

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain and the United States will work together to support democracy and combat climate change, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Sunday, while denying that his close ties to President Donald Trump would hurt U.K.-U.S. relations once President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

Johnson congratulated Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on their victory and said the two countries' "common global perspective" would be vital to shore up a rules-based global order that is under threat.

"The United States is our closest and most important ally," said Johnson, who has yet to speak to Biden. "And that's been the case under president after president, prime minister after prime minister. It won't change."

Johnson told The Associated Press during an interview Sunday at his offices in 10 Downing St. that he looked forward to "working with President Biden and his team on a lot of crucial stuff for us in the weeks and months ahead: tackling climate change, trade, international security, many, many, many, many, many other issues."

Conservative Party leader Johnson is widely seen as an ally — and to critics, a copy — of the populist, "America First" Trump, who has referred to Johnson approvingly as "Britain Trump." Last year, Biden called the British leader a "clone" of Trump, and he has criticized Britain's exit from the European Union, which Johnson has championed and led.

But Johnson said "there is far more that unites the government of this country and government in Wash-

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ington any time, any stage, than divides us.”

“We have common values. We have common interests. We have a common global perspective,” said Johnson. “There’s a huge amount of work we need to do together to protect those values: a belief in democracy, in free speech around the world, in human rights, in free trade, in the rules-based international order.”

He shrugged off suggestions that Biden’s victory would scupper chances of a U.K.-US trade deal, and make it more urgent for Britain to secure a post-Brexit free trade deal with the 27-nation EU.

Britain had been hoping to secure a quick trade agreement with the U.S. after its official departure from the EU in January. The change in administration in Washington leaves prospects of a deal uncertain and could raise pressure on Johnson to seal a deal with the EU before the U.K. makes an economic split from the bloc at the end of this year.

Post-Brexit trade talks are due to resume Monday, with the deadline imposed by the two sides just days away.

“I’ve always been a great enthusiast for a trade deal with our European friends and partners,” said Johnson, who has repeatedly said he is prepared to walk away from the Brexit trade talks without an agreement. “I think it’s there to be done. The broad outlines are pretty clear. We just need to get them to do it if we can.”

Johnson said he still hoped to get a U.S. trade deal but knew the Americans would be “tough negotiators.”

“I’ve never believed that this was going to be something that was going to be a complete pushover under any U.S. administration,” Johnson said, adding “I think there’s a good chance we’ll do something.”

Follow all developments on the Brexit trade talks at <https://apnews.com/Brexit>.

## UK does a U-turn, backs soccer star’s child hunger campaign

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government has made another abrupt about-face and now says it will provide free meals to disadvantaged children in England over the upcoming holidays following a hugely popular child hunger campaign by soccer star Marcus Rashford.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson phoned the 23-year-old Manchester United striker after his team’s Premier League victory over Everton on Saturday to inform him of the government’s decision to spend 170 million pounds (\$220 million) in extra funding to support needy families over the coming year.

“Following the game today, I had a good conversation with the prime minister to better understand the proposed plan, and I very much welcome the steps that have been taken to combat child food poverty in the U.K.,” Rashford said. His petition demanding the Conservative government pay for free school meals for disadvantaged students over the holidays attracted more than 1 million signatures.

The money will be handed to local authorities by December in time to support families over Christmas, many of whom are facing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rashford, who has eloquently spoken about his own childhood experiences of relying on free school lunches and food banks, said the steps taken will improve the lives of nearly 1.7 million children in the U.K. over the next 12 months, “and that can only be celebrated.”

Rashford said he was “so proud” of those who backed his campaign against child hunger and that he was “overwhelmed by the outpouring of empathy and understanding.”

It’s the second time this year that Rashford has forced the government to change its policies. In June, it agreed to keep funding meals for poor students over the summer holidays after initially resisting.

The new money will pay for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme to support families over Christmas while the Holiday Activities and Food program will be extended to cover the Easter, summer and Christmas breaks in 2021.

As part of the package, Healthy Start payments, which help expectant mothers and those on low incomes with young children buy fresh fruit and vegetables, are to rise from 3.10 pounds to 4.25 pounds (\$3.61 to

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\$4.94) a week beginning in April 2021.

"We want to make sure vulnerable people feel cared for throughout this difficult time and, above all, no one should go hungry or be unable to pay their bills this winter," said Work and Pensions Secretary Therese Coffey.

The new money comes a month after the Conservative government failed to back a motion from the opposition Labour Party to extend free school meals.

Labour's education spokesperson, Kate Green, accused the government of "incompetence and intransigence" for waiting until after the October fall school break to make the announcement, and of creating "needless and avoidable hardship for families across the country."

Businesses and local governments stepped into the breach following the government's failure to pay for free school meals in October.

England's children's commissioner, Anne Longfield, welcomed the government's announcement Sunday but called on it to "go further" with benefit payments.

"Hunger does not take a holiday when schools close and a long-term solution to the growing number of children in poverty is urgently required," she said.

Anna Taylor, executive director of the Food Foundation thinktank, also welcomed the government's change of heart, saying it was a "big win" for disadvantaged children. But she said the government needs to help another 1.7 million poor students who miss out on free school lunches because the qualifying income is set far too low.

"Children's food poverty, like the pandemic, will not go away until we have a lasting solution in place," she said.

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

## Firecrackers and prayers as Indians celebrate Harris' win

By AIJAZ RAHI Associated Press

THULASENDRAPURAM, India (AP) — Waking up to the news of Kamala Harris' election as U.S. vice president, overjoyed people in her Indian grandfather's hometown set off firecrackers and offered prayers on Sunday.

Groups gathered at street corners in Thulasendrapuram, a tiny village of 350 people, reading newspapers and chatting about Joe Biden and Harris' victory before moving to a temple.

A woman wrote in color powder outside her home: "Congratulations Kamala Harris. Pride of our village. Vanakkam (Greetings) America."

Most of them had gone to sleep by the time Biden clinched the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes, making Harris the first woman and the first person of South Asian descent to be elected vice president.

"For two or three days we kept our fingers crossed while the result was delayed," said village resident Kalidas Vamdayar. "Now it's a joyful moment for us. We are enjoying it."

"We will celebrate with firecrackers, distributing Indian sweets to people and praying in the temple," Vamdayar said. "We will request her to come here. She would have heard our voice and she may come."

Tamil Nadu state Food Minister R. Kamraj led about 100 people at the Dharma Sastha temple for a 20-minute prayer during which the idol of Hindu deity Ayyanar, a form of Lord Shiva, was washed with milk and decked with flowers by the priest. He chanted hymns after lighting oil lamps, and the villagers bowed their heads in respect.

"Kamala Harris is the daughter of our village," said Aulmozhi Sudhakar, a village councilor. "From children to senior citizens, each one of us is awaiting the day she will take the oath as the vice president of the U.S."

There was more singing, dancing and firecrackers throughout the day in the village, where cutouts and posters wishing Harris a "grand success" adorned walls.

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People congregated in groups of 30-40 exchanging sweets, delicacies and snacks at different spots. They seemed to be celebrating Diwali, the most popular Hindu festival of lights, a week ahead of time.

Young children carrying placards with photos of Harris ran around the village.

Several politicians from nearby districts visited the village with their supporters, meeting local residents and visiting the temple. Musicians played wind and string instruments with cymbals and drums.

J. Sudhakar, who organized prayers on Election Day, expressed his wish that Harris will visit. As Americans voted, around 50 residents, with folded hands, lined up in the temple that reverberated with the sound of ringing bells, and a Hindu priest gave them sweets and flowers as a religious offering.

Women in the village, which is located 350 kilometers (215 miles) from the southern coastal city of Chennai, used bright colors to write "We Wish Kamala Harris Wins" on the ground, alongside a thumbs-up sign.

The lush green village is the hometown of Harris' maternal grandfather, who had moved to Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, decades ago.

Inside the temple where people have been holding special prayers, Harris' name is sculpted into a stone that lists public donations made to the temple in 2014, along with that of her grandfather who gave money decades ago.

Harris' late mother also was born in India, before moving to the U.S. at the age of 19 to study at the University of California. She married a Jamaican man, and they named their daughter Kamala, Sanskrit for "lotus flower."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Harris' success as pathbreaking, and a matter of immense pride not just for her relatives but also for all Indian-Americans. "I am confident that the vibrant India-US ties will get even stronger with your support and leadership," he tweeted.

There has been both excitement — and some concern — over Biden's choice of Harris as his running mate.

Modi had invested in President Donald Trump, who visited India in February. Modi's many Hindu nationalist supporters also were upset with Harris when she expressed concern about the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, whose statehood India's government revoked in August last year.

Harris stood by Pramila Jayapal, another U.S. congresswoman of Indian origin, when Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar refused to attend a meeting in the United States over her participation last year. Jayapal had earlier moved a resolution on the Kashmir issue critical of India in the House of Representatives.

Rights groups accuse India of human rights violations in Indian-controlled Kashmir, where insurgent groups have been fighting for independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan since 1989.

This story has been corrected to show that Harris' maternal grandfather had moved to Chennai, not the U.S.

## World leaders hope for fresh start after Biden win

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

World leaders on Sunday cheered Joe Biden's election as U.S. president as a chance to enhance cooperation on climate change, the coronavirus and other problems after four years of President Donald Trump's rejection of international alliances.

Trump had yet to concede defeat, but Western and Asian allies expressed hope for a fresh start following Trump's "American First" trade policies, withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and attacks on NATO and the World Health Organization.

In Asia, a region on edge about the strategic ambitions of China's ruling Communist Party, the elected leaders of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan invoked "shared values" with Washington and expressed hope for close relations.

"I look forward to working with you to further strengthen the Japan-US Alliance and ensure peace, freedom, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond," said Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Twitter. President Moon Jae-in of South Korea said he looked forward to working together "for

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our shared values.”

Word of the victory in Pennsylvania that pushed Barack Obama’s former vice president past the threshold of the 270 Electoral College votes needed to take over the Oval Office spread around the globe, sparking celebrations.

There was no immediate official reaction from Beijing, which is mired in conflicts with the Trump administration over trade, security and technology. But Chinese social media users welcomed the change. A post on the Sina Weibo microblog service, signed Gong Teng Xin Yi, said, “Congratulating Biden, the old friend of Chinese people on winning the election.”

After Trump said he won “by a lot,” the Communist Party newspaper People’s Daily responded on Twitter, “HaHa.”

President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan, the self-ruled island Beijing claims as part of its territory, expressed hope to “further our friendship.” Biden had congratulated Tsai on her reelection in January, saying Taiwan is “stronger because of your free and open society.” Washington has no formal relations with Taiwan, but Trump raised the profile of informal contacts by sending Cabinet officials to the island, an act that irritated Beijing.

There also was no immediate reaction from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was friendly with Trump. Other leaders who supported Trump, including President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, congratulated Biden, indicating they rejected Trump’s claim the election wasn’t over.

Most Western allies welcomed a fresh start with Washington. Many have been dismayed at Trump’s criticism of decades-old military and economic alliances.

“We want to work in our cooperation for a new trans-Atlantic beginning, a New Deal,” said German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Twitter.

Others expressed hope Biden might revive cooperation on health, climate and other issues following Trump’s rejection of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement and pressure on Canada, Mexico, South Korea and other partners to renegotiate trade terms.

“I look forward to working with President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Harris, their administration, and the United States Congress as we tackle the world’s greatest challenges together,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was the target of personal insults by Trump, said on Twitter.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia told reporters he looked forward to a “great partnership” with Washington. He cited challenges including the coronavirus and “ensuring a free and open” Indo-Pacific region, a reference to China’s disputes with its neighbors over control of vast tracts of ocean.

“American leadership is indispensable to meeting these challenges,” Morrison said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan said he looked forward to working together to end illegal tax havens and on peacemaking in Afghanistan.

Other leaders who sent congratulations included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Embattled Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his U.S.-backed rival, Juan Guaido, both congratulated Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Maduro said Venezuela, which is under crippling U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing him out of office, was “ready for dialogue and understanding” with the United States.

The election outcome drew mixed reviews in Iraq, where Biden is remembered as a champion of the U.S. invasion in 2003. Still, Iraqi President Barham Salih described Biden as a friend and trusted partner.

In Iran, where the economy has been choked by U.S. sanctions, senior Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri wrote on Facebook, “The era of Trump and his warmongering and adventurist team is over.” The newspaper Resalat published images of Trump without a mask against the coronavirus and Biden with a mask, and said, “Maskless enemy left, masked enemy arrived.”

Congratulations also poured in from leaders who got along with Trump but ignored his claims the election wasn’t over.

The Philippines’ Duterte, who had said Filipino-Americans would “get the best deal with Trump,” expressed



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hope for enhanced ties based on "shared commitment to democracy, freedom and the rule of law."

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, who was close to Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, extended his best wishes to Biden and Harris on Twitter.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been known for public displays of bonhomie with Trump, shared a photo of himself with Biden and offered his congratulations "on your spectacular victory!"

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, another Trump ally, said he looked forward to "working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security."

Harris's election inspired calls in parts of Africa for more women in government.

"The time has also come to give our women the chance to occupy such a high office in our country and even the number one position," said a Nigerian Cabinet minister, Festus Keyamo, on Twitter.

Others expressed hope Biden will help to heal divisions in American society and global politics.

"He seems open to accepting people's different viewpoints and wants to move forward in a united manner," said Mika Goto, a nursery school employee in Tokyo.

While outspoken disappointment was scarce, several prominent leaders who have maintained warm relations with Trump's administration kept silent.

That included President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he would wait "until all the issues are resolved."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose Twitter profile photo shows him sitting beside Trump, described Biden as a friend of Israel and said he looked forward to working with him and Harris to "strengthen the special alliance" between their countries. In a separate statement, he thanked Trump for raising U.S.-Israeli relations to "unprecedented heights."

Many people, particularly in nations with turbulent politics, took Biden's win as improving the outlook for respect of democracy.

Among them was Tanzanian opposition leader Zitto Kabwe, who was arrested and charged with terrorism-related offenses after his country's bruising presidential election.

"This victory symbolizes the hope for democracy at a time when many other parts of the world are seeing that light diminishing," Kabwe said.

The outcome inspired disbelief in Slovenia, the homeland of first lady Melania Trump. Prime Minister Janez Jansa was the only leader who congratulated Trump even before all votes were counted and showed support after Biden's win was announced.

AP journalists around the world contributed to this report.

## No. 4 Notre Dame sacks No. 1 Clemson 47-40 in overtime

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — When Clemson's desperate attempt to convert a fourth-and-forever ended in a scrum, Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book tossed his helmet as he sprinted onto the field to celebrate with his teammates.

In seconds, thousands of fans joined in, rushing the field for a postgame party in a pandemic that most definitely did not meet the CDC's social-distancing guidelines.

"When fans stormed the field, it was fun," Book said.

Kyren Williams put the Irish ahead with a 3-yard touchdown run in the second overtime and No. 4 Notre Dame shut down top-ranked Clemson with a couple of sacks to seal a 47-40 win Saturday night.

The first victory over a No. 1 in 27 years for the Fighting Irish can be added to the list of famous streak-breakers in Notre Dame history: Catholics vs. Convicts in 1988 snapped Miami's 36-game regular-season winning streak and the shutout of Oklahoma in 1957 broke the Sooners's record 47-game roll.

Clemson (7-1, 6-1) had won 36 straight regular-season games and had not lost to an Atlantic Coast Conference team since 2017. The Fighting Irish (7-0, 6-0), playing in the ACC only because of the pandemic, brought them all to a halt.

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"No matter how old I am, I'll remember this one forever," Book said.

Who knows where this victory should rank in Notre Dame lore, but considering the setting and this weird pandemic-altered season it is probably its most bizarre.

"I had told our team in our walk-through today, 'Just want you to know when we win this game the fans are going to storm the field. With COVID being what it is, we need to get off the field,'" Irish coach Brian Kelly said. "I beat them off the field."

Williams ran for 140 yards and three touchdowns and Book, the fifth-year senior quarterback, led a 91-yard drive in the final two minutes of regulation to tie it at 33 on a 4-yard touchdown pass to Avery Davis with 22 seconds left.

After Williams gave Notre Dame the lead on the first possession of the second OT, the Irish pushed Clemson back with back-to-back sacks on DJ Uigalelei by Adetokumbo Ogundeji and Daelin Hayes to set up a third-and-24.

"I took a sack in the red zone," Uigalelei said. "... I can't do that."

The five-star freshman quarterback's third-down pass was broken up and his final completion on fourth down was way short of the line to gain. A couple of laterals didn't help and the Irish and their fans went wild.

The Fighting Irish have won 13 straight games and they snapped an 11-game losing streak against top-five teams while beating No. 1 for the first time since taking down Florida State in 1993 at Notre Dame Stadium.

"They dadgum earned it," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "We handle our business, maybe we'll get a chance to play again.

Uigalelei, starting in place of Trevor Lawrence for a second straight week, passed for 439 yards, the most ever by a Notre Dame opponent. Lawrence was on the sideline for this one, a few days out of isolation after having COVID-19.

"I'd like to have Dabo's problems with those two guys," Kelly said. "DJ was just outstanding."

Swinney said Lawrence will return to practice Monday.

The biggest game at Notre Dame Stadium since No. 1 Southern California beat the Irish with the Push Bush in 2005 had only 11,011 in attendance, mostly students, because of pandemic restrictions.

When it was over, they poured onto the field — coronavirus bedamned.

"That's the first time I've ever seen any college storm the field. That was a cool experience," Williams said, and then quickly recalled his coach's advice, "He told us to get inside after the game as fast as we could."

Notre Dame Stadium public address announcer Mike Collins spent about 30 minutes after the game encouraging fans to leave the field and stadium safely, while not trying to be a buzzkill.

"If you leave now you can get out before last call," Collins said.

The Fighting Irish needed a two-week break earlier this season because of a COVID-19 outbreak, but it didn't keep them from entering this showdown with Clemson unbeaten

They might just see each other again in the ACC championship game in December.

"Man, I think it's very likely," said Notre Dame linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, who returned a fumble for a touchdown in the first half as the Irish built a 13-point lead.

Uigalelei, who led the Tigers from 18 down last week against Boston College in his first start, sneaked into the end zone on the second play of overtime to put Clemson up 40-33. Notre Dame responded with a 3-yard touchdown run by Williams and kick to tie it instead of going for 2 to end it.

Five seasons ago when these teams last played on a rainy night in Clemson, the Tigers stopped the Irish on a potential tying 2-point conversion with 7 seconds left in regulation.

Swinney famously said it was a BYOG game: "Bring your own guts." The Tigers needed to back pack some guts and then some for their first trip to South Bend since 1979.

Not only were the Tigers missing Lawrence, but three key defensive starters were out with injuries.

"We didn't win the game, but you saw what this team is made of," Swinney said. "This team is made of the right stuff."

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## THE TAKEAWAY

Clemson: Not having defensive tackle Tyler Davis and linebackers James Skalski and Mike Jones really showed against Notre Dame's excellent offensive line. The Irish ran for 209 yards.

Notre Dame: Avery Davis came to South Bend as a quarterback and he has been moved to running back, receiver and defensive back. He has settled in as a slot receiver and had maybe his biggest game in college, catching the touchdown pass that sent the game to OT and a 53-yarder that set it up the score two plays earlier.

## UP NEXT

Clemson: The Tigers have a week off before visiting Florida State on Nov. 20.

Notre Dame: The Fighting Irish are at Boston College, which might bring back some bad memories for Notre Dame fans. After the Irish upset Florida State in '93, a week later they lost to BC on a last-second field goal.

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## Suu Kyi party set to win Myanmar vote with weak opposition

By AUNG NAING SOE and PYAE SONE WIN Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Voters in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, turned up early Sunday in large numbers to vote in nationwide elections that are expected to return to power the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won the last elections in 2015 in a landslide, ending more than five decades of military-dictated rule in the country.

With Myanmar under threat from a coronavirus surge, mask wearing was mandatory in the lines at polling stations, and many voters also donned plastic face shields and gloves. Body temperatures were taken and hand sanitizing gel was freely dispensed by officials, but social distancing rules were only fitfully observed.

Traditional campaigning ahead of the election was severely limited by social distancing and quarantines in some areas.

"The voter turnout here is more than we expected," said Zaw Win Tun, a neighborhood administrator and official at Yangon's Pho Myae polling station. "I think people are excited to vote, as they would like to escape from the political struggles. They want real democracy." He did not elaborate, but appeared to be referring to a power struggle between Suu Kyi's civilian government and the military.

The ability of Suu Kyi's administration to run the country has been hamstrung by a clause in the 2008 army-drafted constitution giving the military 25% of the seats in Parliament, allowing it to block constitutional reforms.

At another polling station, 19-year-old Eaint Yadanar Oo said she was excited because it was her first time voting.

"I came here to vote to perform my civic duty," she said. She explained that she was afraid of the coronavirus pandemic, but that she "came here with full protection because I want better educational and job opportunities."

More than 90 parties are competing for seats in the lower and upper houses of Parliament, while there were also elections at the state levels. There were more than 37 million people eligible to vote, including 5 million first-timers.

With the opposition in disarray, Suu Kyi, who is the nation's leader with the title of state counsellor, remains Myanmar's most popular politician. But her government has fallen short of expectations, with economic growth doing little to alleviate widespread poverty and a failure to ease tensions among the country's fractious ethnic groups.

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Suu Kyi, 75, cast her ballot late last month in the capital, Naypyitaw, as citizens 60 years of age and over were encouraged to vote in advance, along with those who were forced by the coronavirus to stay away from their home constituencies.

Her party's main challenger, as it was five years ago, was the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which has led the opposition in Parliament.

The Election Commission said it would begin to announce results Monday morning. But it may take up to a week to collect all the votes, some of which will come from remote jungle areas.

The election is widely seen as a referendum on Suu Kyi's leadership.

"There is no major party really putting an alternative, a credible alternative, forward," Yangon-based political analyst Richard Horsey said, explaining part of the reason Suu Kyi's side has a winning hand in Myanmar's heartland, where its ethnic Burman majority lives.

Even more important for the ruling party's prospects, he said, is "the personal support, even love, that many people have for Aung San Suu Kyi herself, almost irrespective of how the government administration performs, how the economy performs and so on."

One such fan is 32-year-old voter Mee Mee, a business owner. She said she was excited because in her travels around the country she could see changes and development initiated by Suu Kyi's government putting the country on the right track.

"I like Auntie Suu. She's good," said Mee Mee, referring to Suu Kyi by how she is popularly known. "I believe in her and what she's doing."

The affection for Suu Kyi does not extend to the borderlands, the states occupied by the myriad ethnic minorities who have been seeking greater political autonomy for decades.

Suu Kyi's ambitious plans to reconcile with the minorities have foundered. Their grievances have frequently erupted into armed rebellion, posing major threats to national security.

The ethnic political parties in 2015 had cooperated with Suu Kyi's party to ensure victory against candidates from the Union Solidarity and Development Party. But this year, the ethnic parties, disappointed with her failure to reach a deal to expand their political rights, are supporting only their own candidates.

The Union Election Commission caused major controversy when it canceled voting in some areas where parties critical of the government were certain to win seats. The commission said those areas were dangerous because of insurgencies, but critics said the agency was carrying out the NLD's bidding. More than 1 million people are estimated to have been disenfranchised.

The plight of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority — an issue of major concern outside the country — played no real role in the campaign. A brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign by Myanmar's army drove about 740,000 Rohingya to flee across the border to Bangladesh, leading to a World Court investigation of possible genocide.

Long-standing prejudice against the Rohingya, whom many consider illegal immigrants from South Asia despite their families having been settled in Myanmar for generations, has deprived most of Myanmar citizenship and basic rights, including voting.

## Eco-fashion offers a renaissance for new Tunisian brands

By FRANCESCA EBEL Associated Press

MAHDIA, Tunisia (AP) — The sun is setting by the time Tunisian fashion designer Chems Eddine Mechri reaches the breezy, seaside town of Mahdia. He has spent half the day driving in the scorching heat in pursuit of the precious, handmade fabrics he needs for his upcoming winter collection.

With a 200-kilometer ( 125-mile) road trip from Tunis coming to an end, the designer knows just the place: the basement of a blue-lit workshop, hidden away in the labyrinth of Mahdia's old medina, where silk weaver Mohamed Ismail's spinning wheel still is going at full speed.

In a globalized world dominated by fast fashion brands such as Zara, H&M and Topshop, Tunisian designers like Mechri are increasingly going back to their roots, embracing local artisans and environmentally conscious materials. Thanks to North African nation's age-old textile-making traditions, Tunisia is a good

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fit for the eco-fashion they want to champion.

Ismail has been spinning locally sourced wool and cotton, as well as silk thread imported from China, for the last 47 years. "This work is in our blood...it's in our DNA," Ismail says as he unwinds a crimson silk yarn in his workshop. "It's intergenerational, and for my family, this work is very precious to us."

Back in the capital of Tunis, Mechri and his dressmaker sew together a dress from scratch for his fashion brand Née. They combine a shimmering pink and gold traditional fabric used in Tunisian embroidery with a mesh material from the 1960s. Both were deemed unsellable by the merchant Mechri bought them from.

"They (didn't) fit with the tastes of the day," Mechri said. "And that's why they (the fabric merchants) need us, the designers...to give a second life to these materials."

The \$2.6 billion textile industry is a pillar of the Tunisian economy, employing 160,000 people and producing roughly 25% of the country's total exports, according to estimates by the Oxford Business Group. However, fashion is among the most polluting industries in the world, responsible for producing 10% of carbon dioxide globally, according to the World Bank, and tens of millions of tons of clothing is discarded every year.

Mechri and other designers have turned to the eco-friendly practice of "upcycling" — taking old or unwanted materials and turning them into something new and modern by incorporating high-quality fabrics. Mechri mixes old fabrics with the craftwork of artisans across Tunisia - from embroiderers in Tataouine, on the edge of the desert, to seamstresses in Bizerte in the country's north.

Fashion brands in the West are getting serious about upcycling, too, including American brand Bode and Hotel, a Danish-French brand founded by Alexandra Hartmann.

"People are starting to realize the negative impact of that desire to constantly consume all the time without taking a step back, taking a pause to reflect and ask questions about the environment and the future of humanity," Mechri said in his Tunis boutique as clothing on the racks behind him shimmered and rustled at the touch. "Fashion is an intelligent way to pay homage to local materials."

The desire to honor one's ancestry was equally important to Hassen Ben Aych, a 26-year-old former computer scientist. He founded the fledgling high-end brand Bardo with the express intent of reviving Tunisia's heritage and traditional crafts in "an era of uncertainty and fear of environmental doom, coupled with the slow death of small pockets of culture in the face of globalization."

The brand's first collection evokes imagery from the famous Bardo palace in Tunis and the era of the beys, the rulers in the Tunisian monarchy that was abolished in 1957.

"We wanted to go back to a period that is often overlooked and avoid the clichés," Aych said. "We wanted to show that there is more to us than kaftans, (and to) dive deeper into our history and identity."

In 2018, Riad Trabelsi relaunched his French-Tunisian brand BASSCOUTUR to prove to the industry that sustainable fashion is possible on a wider scale. The brand has a growing client base in Japan and South Korea and will soon launch in Italy.

"We're seeing this concept become normative. If it's not sustainable, it's not cool," Trabelsi said.

He feels his designs reflect the complexity of the modern Tunisian diaspora: "My identity is complex - I have a Tunisian father, an Algerian mother, meanwhile I was born in France. I draw all my DNA from this incredible mix... I am constantly evolving, reconditioning myself and my understanding of my Tunisian heritage each day."

Sofia Guellaty, a Tunisian fashion journalist and the founder of MILLE World, an online platform spotlighting Arab youth culture, arts and fashion, said these brands "are using the storytelling of where they come from to make their garments stand out."

"Tunisia is exactly on the mood board: the natural shapes, the beautiful, raw, organic materials. They are what the international and local markets want," she said.

Guellaty notes that most Tunisians, still excited by the novelty of fast fashion brands that only started becoming available locally over the last decade — are not so eco-conscious. Still, she has noticed more young Tunisians embracing their cultural identity and turning to local brands.

Aych says Tunisia's still-flourishing textile industry represents hope for those swept up in the country's ongoing economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

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"The industry sustains a lot of families with a steady income even in remote areas and without access to higher education," he said. Businesses that strike a balance between ethical industrial practices and community-driven craftsmanship offer Tunisia "a hope of a better tomorrow."

## Biden promotes unity, turns to business of transition

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden used his first national address as president-elect to vow to heal a deeply divided nation, declaring it was time to "let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end" and reaching out to the millions of people who voted against him to say, "Let's give each other a chance."

His calls for reconciliation at a Saturday evening victory celebration came even as President Donald Trump continued to argue that the election had been stolen from him, an indication that the divisive politics that have gripped the U.S. over the past four years are far from over.

It also suggested that even as Biden seeks to build out a government during his transition to the presidency, the president has little interest in helping him do so.

"For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment," Biden said during a drive-in event in Wilmington, Delaware. "It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again."

Biden heads into his first full day as president-elect on Sunday with key staffing decisions to make as the coronavirus rages. The always-frenzied 10-week transition period before Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 already has been shortened by the extra time it took to determine the winner of Tuesday's election.

The second Catholic to be elected president, Biden planned to attend church at St. Joseph on the Brandywine near his home in Wilmington, as he does nearly every week. He began Election Day with a visit to the church and the grave of his son, Beau, a former Delaware attorney general who died of brain cancer in 2015.

His top priority in the transition is expected to be quickly naming a chief of staff. Biden suggested during the campaign that his first call after being elected would be to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, but his advisers have not said whether the two have spoken yet.

Biden said Saturday that he would announce a task force of scientists and experts Monday to develop a "blueprint" to begin beating back the virus by the time he assumes the presidency. He said his plan would be "built on bedrock science" and "constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern."

Biden was on track to win the national popular vote by more than 4 million, a margin that could grow as ballots continue to be counted. He made Trump the first incumbent president to be denied a second term since Republican George H.W. Bush lost to Bill Clinton in 1992.

His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, used her first address as vice president-elect to showcase her history-make place as the first Black woman to become vice president, an achievement that comes as the U.S. faces a reckoning on racial justice. The California senator is also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government.

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," Harris said in her speech Saturday night.

To win, Biden successfully unified different wings of the Democratic Party around their universal loathing of Trump, garnering support from progressive insurgents and establishment moderates alike.

"The party came together to defeat Donald Trump," said Brian Lemek, a longtime progressive fundraiser and executive director of Brady PAC, which invested \$6 million on 2020 candidates supporting gun violence prevention efforts and voting rights. "His main job right now, we all think, is to heal the nation."

Biden senior adviser Ted Kaufman said the transition team will focus on the "nuts and bolts" of building the new administration in coming days. He said Biden plans to speak to legislative leaders and governors from both parties.

Biden may not make top Cabinet choices for weeks. But he built his presidential run around bipartisanship and he has spent the days since Tuesday's election pledging to be a president for all Americans. That

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suggests he could be willing to appoint some Republicans to high-profile administration positions.

Many former Republican officeholders broke with Trump to endorse Biden's campaign. His selection of some of them to join the new government could appease Senate Republicans, who may have to confirm many of Biden's choices for top jobs. The GOP could retain control of the chamber after two special elections in Georgia on Jan. 5.

Still, too much across-the-aisle cooperation could draw the ire of progressives. Some already worry that uncooperative Senate Republicans could force Biden to scale back his ambitious campaign promises to expand access to health care and lead a post-pandemic economic recovery that relies on federal investment in green technology and jobs to help combat climate change.

"I think there will be a huge misuse of the word 'unity' to imply that we need to water down the ideas that Joe Biden just campaigned on," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. He said the country was more united around bold solutions to big problems than small-scale efforts to appease moderates in both parties.

Biden's efforts at bipartisan reconciliation, meanwhile, could still be derailed by Trump's refusing to concede the presidential race. It wasn't clear if Biden and Trump would meet in coming days, as is the modern tradition.

Biden campaign spokeswoman Symone Sanders said, "Donald Trump does not get to decide the winner of elections."

"The people decide, voters in the country decide," Sanders said. "And voters have made their choice very clear."

Some of the president's supporters used similar language to make the opposite argument.

"The media do not get to determine who the president is. The people do," tweeted Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri. "When all lawful votes have been counted, recounts finished, and allegations of fraud addressed, we will know who the winner is."

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AP National Political Writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

## Trump considers how to keep up fight, find a graceful exit

By JILL COLVIN, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump never admits defeat. But he faces a stark choice now that Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House: Concede graciously for the sake of the nation or don't — and get evicted anyway.

After nearly four tortured days of counting yielded a victory for Biden on Saturday, Trump was still insisting the race was not over. He threw out baseless allegations of voter fraud, promised a flurry of legal action and fired off all-caps tweets falsely insisting he'd "WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT."

Trump is not expected to ever formally concede, according to people close to him, but is likely to grudgingly vacate the White House at the end of his term. His ongoing efforts to paint the election as unfair are seen both as an effort to soothe a bruised ego and to show his loyal base of supporters that he is still fighting. That could be key to keeping them energized for what comes next.

"He intends to fight," Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow said as it was becoming clear that the president was headed for defeat.

Would Trump ever concede? "I doubt it," said Trump's longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone, whom the president recently pardoned. As a result, Stone said, Biden will have "a cloud over his presidency with half the people in the country believing that he was illegitimately elected."

Allies suggested that if Trump wants to launch a media empire in coming years, he has an incentive to prolong the drama. So, too, if he intends to keep the door open to a possible 2024 comeback — he would be only a year older than Biden is now.

There are many in his inner circle egging him on, including his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani. The former New York mayor has been promising to provide the president with evidence of voter fraud but has

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produced little, including during a press conference he held Saturday in the parking lot of a small Philadelphia landscaping company next to an adult bookstore.

Trump's adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, have also urged their father to keep fighting and challenged Republicans to stand with them.

Other political allies and White House officials, however, have pressed Trump to change his tone and commit to a smooth transition. They've emphasized to him that history will be a harsh judge of any action he takes that is seen as undermining his successor. And they have advised him to deliver a speech in the coming week pledging to support the transition.

Trump senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner has told others that he has urged the president to accept the outcome of the race — even if Trump won't come to terms with how it was reached.

At Fox News, where prime-time hosts wield enormous influence over Trump, Laura Ingraham gave voice to the president's belief that the election had been unfair, while also pleading with him to keep his legacy in mind — and preserve his status as a GOP kingmaker — by gracefully leaving office.

"If and when it's time to accept an unfavorable outcome in this election, and we hope it never comes, President Trump needs to do it with the same grace and composure that he demonstrated at that town hall with Savannah Guthrie," she said Thursday. "President Trump's legacy will only become more significant if he focuses on moving the country forward."

This story is based on interviews with more than a dozen Trump aides and allies, many of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions.

That the peaceful transfer of power was even in doubt reflected the norm-shattering habits of the now-lame duck president, who even in victory never admitted that he had lost the popular vote in 2016.

Most aides believed the president would take the weekend to decide on a plan, which will most certainly involve more legal action. But some aides believe the legal skirmishes are more about putting up the appearance of a fight than producing results.

There were some indications Trump was moving in a less contentious direction, even as he continued to angrily complain to aides, reviving old grievances about the Russia investigation that began under President Barack Obama,

In a statement Friday, Trump suggested he would avail himself of every avenue under the law to challenge the election's result. Allies interpreted it as a begrudging acknowledgement of the likely outcome.

"We will pursue this process through every aspect of the law to guarantee that the American people have confidence in our government," Trump said in the statement. "I will never give up fighting for you and our nation."

On Saturday, the White House released a terse statement saying the president "will accept the results of a free and fair election" and that the administration "is following all statutory requirements."

Still, there were concerns that Trump's rhetoric would inflame tensions in a nation that was already bitterly divided before the election. Isolated scuffles were reported near tabulation centers in Philadelphia and Phoenix.

Pro-Trump protesters — some of them openly carrying rifles and handguns — rallied outside tallying facilities in a few cities around the country Friday, responding to Trump's groundless accusations that the Democrats were trying to steal the White House.

Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee have bombarded supporters with impassioned pleas for cash, raking in tens of millions of dollars since Tuesday, according to people familiar with the matter. Some of the money was earmarked to retire campaign debt, but the rest could be used to keep up an aggressive public campaign to continue to undermine faith in the election outcome.

The Biden campaign made clear its patience had limits.

"As we said on July 19, the American people will decide this election," Biden spokesman Andrew Bates said Friday. "And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Trump, whose voluminous Twitter account seems to provide an apt entry for any occasion, offered this advice in 2016: "Vladimir Putin said today about Hillary and Dems: "In my opinion, it is humiliating. One



must be able to lose with dignity," So true!"

## Message of Election 2020: Trump lost, but Trumpism did not

By MICHAEL TACKETT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lost. But Trumpism did not.

It won in the parts of the country and with the voters whom Trump catered to over four years, constantly jabbing the hard edges of almost every contentious cultural issue into Red America, on the bet that fear and anger were a winning hand. It almost was.

Joe Biden defeated Trump to win the presidency, and is on pace to win up to 306 electoral votes, a total that would match what Trump exaggerated as a "landslide" four years ago. In a typical election year, such a victory would mean Biden would have carried other Democrats along with him. Instead, several promising Democratic Senate and House candidates, including incumbents, lost.

For Trump, the situation was the inverse. His popularity among his base voters helped protect incumbent Republicans but was not enough to save him. He won more votes for president than any other candidate. Except Biden. The rejection of Trump was personal.

The election did little to suggest that the country was suddenly less polarized. Trump wrung out votes from areas where he already had a core of support, in rural and small-town America. Biden did the same, only more, in urban and suburban America while also holding down Trump margins in some rural areas. The outcome didn't change the fact that much of the country is still speaking two different political languages.

"This defied everyone's expectations. Everyone said if Joe Biden wins, Democrats win the Senate. If Trump wins, Republicans win the Senate," said Rahm Emanuel, the former mayor of Chicago and chief of staff to President Barack Obama. "That's not what happened. Clearly there was an undertow.

"Life is not binary," Emanuel said. "It's more complicated. Florida, a state that voted for Trump, voted for the minimum wage. Illinois, a state that voted for Biden, voted down a progressive income tax. California, cobalt blue, voted against affirmative action in the place of employment."

Emanuel said that Democrats may have erred in not offering clearer plans about how they would rebuild the economy while also gaining control over the virus and in not batting back Republican efforts to label them socialists.

"Trump played to people's fatigue about COVID," he said. "If we had brought the same sense of urgency to getting the economy moving as we did getting COVID under control, it might have been different."

Instead, some Democrats were advocating for expanding the Supreme Court and ending the filibuster in the Senate, proposals that might have prompted fear about one-party control.

"It's clear there was more voter frustration with Trump than with the ideology of the Republican Party," said Mike Murphy, a strategist to several Republican presidential campaigns who broke with his party over Trump. "Clearly the presidential race was operating in its own world from the congressional race."

Since Trump campaigned largely on friendly turf, he also helped Republican candidates in those areas.

"Trump lifted Republican candidates by vastly boosting turnout in areas of Republican strength," said David Axelrod, former senior adviser Obama. "In the states and districts that favor Republicans, they ran up the score."

Many voters offered a consistent refrain about Trump: They liked his policies but could not abide his anger-fueled personality, his constant use of Twitter as a weapon, and the way he ridiculed anyone who dared disagree with him.

Biden's call for a return to decency, and his appeal to be a president for all Americans and not just the base of his party, was an important part of his formula.

But the closeness of the race, even with the president's persistently low approval ratings, was also a testament to the inherent power of an incumbent seeking reelection. There's a reason only three elected incumbents before Trump had lost in nearly a century.

When an incumbent loses, the challenger's party often gains. In 1980, when Ronald Reagan defeated President Jimmy Carter, Republicans took 12 Senate seats from Democrats. In 1992, Bill Clinton's vic-

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tory over President George H.W. Bush also came with three Democratic Senate victories over incumbent Republicans. When Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated President Herbert Hoover in 1932, Democrats gained nearly 100 House seats and a dozen in the Senate, giving Roosevelt the muscular majorities he needed to pass sweeping New Deal legislation.

But no president in recent memory had maintained such iron-grip allegiance from his own party as Trump, with only a handful of Republicans in Congress ever willing to cross him, fearing that they were always one presidential tweet away from a primary challenge. They stuck with him during his impeachment, when only Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, voted to convict him, and Trump ostracized him. And several were sticking with him even in defeat, offering up unproven allegations of voter fraud.

Some voters liked Trump's tough talk on trade and getting other nations to pay more for common defense. They gave him credit, right or wrong, for an economy that was buoyant before the pandemic struck. And Trump played to Americans' fatigue from all the restrictions imposed because of the virus by saying the warnings of his own administration's top public health officials were overblown.

Still, there was a collective limit to how much more of Trump's always-in-your-face presidency they were willing to take.

Not enough, though, to deliver Biden a majority in the Senate, at least not until the outcome of two runoff elections in Georgia in January.

But some Democrats also noted that they held most seats in swing states, and that Biden won in some competitive districts. "There are also many districts that Biden flipped from 2016, like my district," said Rep. Elaine Luria of Virginia. She said her margin of victory over the same opponent more than doubled from 2018.

"The bottom line on Republicans winning in traditionally Republican-held seats was their unprecedented turnout," Luria said. "Trump was not able to capitalize on that turnout himself, because his actions and rhetoric over the last four years made him unpalatable to the majority of Americans."

Biden clearly was seen as both a necessary and acceptable alternative. He had no pithy slogan like "Hope and Change" when he was Obama's running mate in 2008. Rather, he tapped into a national desire to stop the noise, to turn the page from a period so marked by rage and hate inspired from the White House itself.

## Americans pivot from red-hot Trump to Biden's seasoned cool

By CALVIN WOODWARD and MICHAEL TACKETT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a crystallizing moment at the last presidential debate, Donald Trump and Joe Biden fielded a question about people of color who live alongside chemical plants and oil refineries that seem to be making them sick.

As is his way, Biden responded with I've-been-there empathy. He recalled growing up so close to Delaware refineries that when his mom drove him to school in a morning frost, the wipers spread an oil slick on the windshield.

Trump responded in his own way, too. "The families that we're talking about are employed heavily and they are making a lot of money," he presumed. "More money than they've ever made ... tremendous money."

These men were true to form, authentic in that exchange. On debate night and through the campaign they offered voters a distinct choice between a red-hot president who put the bottom line before all else and an unflashy Democrat who invited Americans to cool down and come together.

Biden promised straight talk and sobriety on the lethal pandemic, respect for the facts (if you don't count his flubs), aspirations for racial justice and a revival of the verities of American democracy that Democrats said Trump was tearing apart.

And the nation pivoted, embracing at least the chance of reconciliation in this deeply riven country. Will Americans accept the olive branch Biden extends? The election was far from a comprehensive repudiation of the polarizing president.

While Biden drew the most votes of any presidential candidate in history, Trump drew the second most ever — each over 70 million and some 4 million votes apart. Biden's victory Saturday, when Pennsylvania

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sealed his Electoral College win, had Trump crying foul, refusing to concede and feeding the false sense among his supporters that he was cheated by a corrupted vote.

After nearly five decades in public office, Biden was never going to be the most energizing candidate in the field. He had no pithy slogan like "Hope and Change" to rouse excitement. Audacity isn't his thing, man.

Rather, he tapped a majority's desire to stop the noise, to reject the bleating on Twitter, to turn the page from a period marked by confrontation, division and chaos, often driven by the White House itself. "Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end, here and now," he told his excited crowd, and the country, in his victory speech Saturday night.

The Trump years had all been too much for lifelong Republican Edward Drnach, 61, of Ellicott City, Maryland, who voted for a Democratic president for the first time.

"I've just had it," Drnach said of Trump. "Whether he says something stupid, or whether he breaks ties with an ally, or whether he kisses up to a dictator, I've had it, and the whole boatload of things that come along with him, his whole family, etcetera."

It was all too much for Biden voter Cynthia McDonald, too, in Sandy Springs, Georgia. "I want to wake up and not have this sense of doom," said the 52-year-old consultant. "I just want to wake up and feel like there's an adult in charge."

"It's kind of like a train wreck that you can't look away from," she said. "Then you realize you're not watching the train wreck. You're on the damn train."

At least some of Biden's victory was driven by an animus toward Trump that was far greater than the rejection of Jimmy Carter or George H.W. Bush, the only two other elected incumbents to lose since Herbert Hoover in the Depression. It was great enough that the left swallowed its disappointment at their party's choice of a conventional candidate and swung behind him.

## PASSION PLAYS

From the start, if anyone can remember a start, Biden and running mate Kamala Harris clutched their consistent lead in opinion polls like a precious vase, wary of moving too much lest it slip and shatter.

Campaigning in the midst of a pandemic, they stayed studiously distanced. Like a throwback to the age of drive-in movies, people gathered in and on their cars in fields and parking lots to hear Democrats speak, honking their horns in approval.

When Trump viewed the Democratic events, he didn't see a respect for public guidelines; he saw only sparse crowds. His own events, often in states suffering heavy virus infections in the closing days of the campaign, drew thousands, standing shoulder-to-shoulder. They came to see the leader who contracted COVID-19, seemed to shrug it off, then danced for his cheering, spottily masked throngs.

Such passions spread across the vast American landscape in an explosion of banners on small-town lawns and farmers' fields — geographically, at least, this was still Trump country.

But signs, rallies and red ballcaps are not votes. Americans ousted Trump with the quiet passion of their ballots.

For all of that, Trump country endures beyond the man himself in ways that cannot simply be snapped back, culturally, politically or between neighbors.

Biden will take over with an entrenched conservative majority on the Supreme Court and a federal judiciary reshaped with Trump's lifetime appointments. He inherits immigration barriers that were fashioned both from policy and from the steel beams that form Trump's imposing if very unfinished border wall. Biden prepares to assume office in a pandemic that won't turn on a dime simply because he takes it seriously and doesn't scorn the experts.

Trump also gave voice to a large, aggrieved minority simmering with resentments of their own, often over a government they feel has left them behind. These resentments don't vanish overnight.

They may only be exacerbated by the defeat of the leader who seemed to have the back of those who had elected him four years ago — the leader who wielded lock-'em-up aggression as a means of getting what you want.

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Some dared hope otherwise.

"Joe Biden is a good man who wants the best for everyone in this country," said Gabriella Cochrane, a 54-year-old corporate recruiter in Virginia Beach, Virginia, who voted for him. "Not the richest. Not the whitest. For everyone. His soothing presence is what this country needs right now."

## PIVOTS AHEAD

Whatever hurdles Biden faces with Congress, prepare yourself for a change of style that will also come with a change of substance, at least in areas where a new president can flip a switch.

The rollback of environmental regulation from the White House is over. Hello again, Paris climate accord. Mask-wearing will be encouraged from the bully pulpit, never ridiculed. Goodbye to the White House tweet tsunami — more than 22,000 of them from Trump since he took office.

Biden's ego is as substantial as any normal politician's and his way of deflecting attention to others is not a unique grace in politics. His way only stands out because the common graces vanished so thoroughly in the Trump era. In a Quinnipiac poll not long before the election, strong majorities said Biden has a sense of decency and Trump does not.

The Democrat comes to office with the support of scores of Republicans who served as national security officials, U.S. attorneys, governors and lawmakers, part of a larger pool of ordinary Americans who also traditionally vote for Republican presidents but this time didn't.

That pivot does not signal smooth sailing in Washington, however, where the toxicity writ large in the country promises epic showdowns across the range of policy — taxes, immigration, trade, foreign affairs and more.

Biden's broad coalition of college graduates, women, urban and suburban voters, young people and Black Americans prevailed over Trump's core of white voters without a college degree, rural voters and religious conservatives, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate. Both sides went into the fight entrenched — about three-quarters said they knew all along which candidate they backed.

Then there is the pandemic, which has upended so much of American life and may have ultimately cost Trump the presidency. The election exposed how close to home the crisis has come: About 1 in 5 voters said a close friend or family member died from the virus and roughly 2 in 5 said their household lost a job or income because of it, AP VoteCast found.

Trump tangled with scientists and did not tell the public all that he knew: that the virus was airborne, that young people could be infected, that the virus was in fact far deadlier than the seasonal flu.

He closed out the campaign exasperated by all the attention still being paid to "COVID, COVID, COVID" as the virus rages, hospitals in hotspots strain to accommodate the sick and the death toll has surpassed 236,000.

Biden brings a different approach to the crisis simply by acknowledging its severity, pledging to be guided by the public-health authorities and promising that Americans at long last will hear the truth about it from the White House.

He has not laid out a plan of federal action that is markedly different from what the country has seen. Still, more than 4 in 10 voters named the pandemic as their dominant issue, more than were motivated primarily by the economy, Trump's strong point in public opinion.

The man dubbed Sleepy Joe by Trump may represent a cure for another kind of condition — Trump fatigue.

So hopes Carla Dundes, a retired professional oboist who got so tired of Trump tooting his own horn.

So tired of obsessively following the political news, the virus infection numbers, the polls, the latest count of received mail-in ballots on her county's website from her home in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mount Lebanon. She's sick of only feeling centered when she's behind her Steinway piano, her instrument of choice these days.

"I want my life back," she said.

Starring at an Orlando, Florida, drive-in rally late in the campaign, Barack Obama paid an odd compliment to his former vice president and Harris. He said they are people you can ignore for days at a time.

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"You're not going to have to think about them every single day," he said. "You're not going to have to worry about what crazy things they're going to say, what they're going to tweet. They're just going to be too busy doing the work. It just won't be so exhausting. You'll be able to go about your lives."

Folks honked.

Associated Press writers Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia; Brian Witte in Ellicott City, Maryland; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; and Matt Sedensky in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## How Biden navigated pandemic politics to win the White House

By STEVE PEOPLES, BILL BARROW, ZEKE MILLER and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden was fresh off winning the Michigan primary and effectively capturing the Democratic presidential nomination, a prize he'd sought for the better part of three decades. Instead of plotting a strategy to build momentum, he was contemplating an abrupt halt.

He gathered his senior team in a conference room on the 19th floor of his campaign's Philadelphia headquarters, the type of in-person meeting that would soon be deemed a public health risk. A former surgeon general and Food and Drug Administration commissioner joined on speakerphone.

As the coronavirus began to explode across the United States that March, Biden asked a question that would ultimately guide the campaign's thinking for months: "What should I be modeling?"

The health experts recommended the 77-year-old Biden step away from campaigning as soon as possible, both for his safety and that of staff and supporters. Biden agreed. He decided that he and every staff member would work from home starting that weekend. All field offices would be closed.

He wouldn't return to in-person campaigning for 174 days.

It was a decision without precedent in modern American politics. Barack Obama and John McCain returned to Washington in the final weeks of the 2008 campaign to respond to that year's financial collapse, but only briefly. In an era when voters are accustomed to seeing their presidential candidates constantly, the idea of a complete withdrawal was unthinkable.

That was especially true for Biden, whose tactile approach to politics is legendary.

"It was a hard call," said Jake Sullivan, a senior Biden adviser. "If there's no pandemic, he gets a chance to get out and do what he does, which is retail campaigning, meeting people where they are, having the opportunity to sit with folks and speak to crowds and walk down the street. That's what he would have preferred, obviously."

For Biden, who has been elected the 46th president of the United States, perhaps no decision was more consequential to his victory, making it possible to flip states such as Arizona and Wisconsin, where coronavirus infections and hospitalizations spiked the week of the election. Still, the cautious approach prompted ridicule from President Donald Trump, who constantly teased Biden for "hiding in his basement" and returned to large in-person events much sooner than his rival, and with far fewer precautions.

Some Democrats also worried. Several state party chairs and down-ballot candidates privately urged the campaign to resume in-person events and canvassing. Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa warned that Latino turnout could suffer. The lack of personal outreach has been blamed for contributing to Biden's poor showing with Latinos in Florida, a battleground that Trump carried.

But Biden refused to change course, defining himself early on as a responsible foil to Trump, someone who could make difficult choices and serve as something of a role model to a country facing a historic set of crises.

It was a theme Biden would return to repeatedly in the months ahead as millions of people lost their jobs, the largest protest movement since the civil rights era bloomed in response to police killings of Black people, and Trump threatened central elements of American democracy by refusing to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he lost.

This account of Biden's rise to the presidency is based on interviews with more than a dozen people who hold senior positions in the Biden and Trump campaigns along with strategists and donors in each party.

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Many spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the turbulent campaign with candor.

They all agree on one thing: The coronavirus fundamentally reshaped the race.

In the early hours of Friday, Oct. 2, a senior official at the Republican National Committee texted a colleague with a dire message about the fate of Trump's campaign: It was hopeless.

The president had just announced that he and his wife, Melania, had tested positive for the coronavirus, joining the 7 million Americans already infected. By the end of the day, Trump would be taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Marine One, the short helicopter ride over the Washington skyline captured on live television.

Trump's illness presented serious medical concerns and raised alarm about the stability of the U.S. government. At 74, Trump was at a higher risk of serious complications from the virus. He refused to temporarily cede power to Vice President Mike Pence as he recovered.

"I talked to him that night. I talked to him the whole hospitalization," said GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's closest allies in Washington. "Friday night, he wasn't feeling good."

Trump's infection was both a stunning twist and entirely predictable. He'd been cavalier about the virus for months, painting Democrats as reactionaries using the pandemic to take away individual rights. He mocked mask-wearing recommendations from scientists and returned to his trademark rallies, packing thousands of mostly unmasked supporters together, sometimes over the objection of local health officials.

He held large-scale events on the South Lawn of the White House, including the introduction of Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett less than a week before his diagnosis.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was that Trump hadn't contracted the virus sooner.

After three nights in the hospital, Trump, who was still infectious, staged a dramatic return to the White House. Just in time for the evening newscasts on the major networks, the former reality television star climbed the South Portico steps, turned to the cameras and removed his mask to declare "I feel good." He entered the White House, where aides were visible milling about the Blue Room, without wearing a face covering.

The move, less than a month before Election Day, was designed to show a president in control. It also threatened his relationship with the official wing of his party. On Capitol Hill, Republicans maintained their public support of Trump, eager to avoid enraged tweets that could threaten their political futures.

But at the RNC, frustration was building that Trump was missing obvious opportunities.

Party officials believed Trump could have been on track to win as much as 60% of the vote had he taken a more empathetic approach to the pandemic. Instead, he adopted a combative and dismissive attitude toward the science that guided most of his decisions in the election's final weeks.

The party questioned Trump's spending and messaging. The campaign spent untold millions on aggressive ads resembling WWE commercials blanketing TV, but none of them moved the needle. The ads were in many instances approved by Trump personally and aired on stations in Washington, targeted to an audience of one — the president — in a heavily Democratic city.

By early October, the RNC had had enough of the Trump campaign's scattered message and decided to produce its own advertisements offering a more sober message on health care. The message tested better than anything the Trump campaign had done previously.

Despite their public confidence, Trump's own staff seemed increasingly aware of the impending loss. In the final weeks of the campaign, White House staff offices began rotating in aides who had not yet been on Air Force One or not as frequently as others, to give them that experience while they still had the chance.

Trump himself was grappling with his fate in public.

"How the hell can we be tied?" he said at a rally in Carson City, Nevada.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders knew his White House ambitions were over. Biden assumed a commanding lead in the Democratic primary by late March and the pandemic dashed any hopes of a comeback — or even a spirited exchange of ideas that could last until the summer convention.

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But before he exited the race, the progressive icon wanted significant policy concessions on health care and education.

Sanders knew that Biden wouldn't agree to support "Medicare for All." The former vice president had aggressively run against it during in the primary. But Sanders believed he could get Biden to agree to lower the age for Medicare eligibility.

Sanders wanted Biden to drop the age to 55 from the current 65. Senior staff from both sides hammered out a compromise, which was later sealed during a private conversation between Sanders and Biden. A few days after Sanders formally stepped aside, Biden announced that he supported lowering the Medicare age to 60.

"Based on the calls that the senator had with the vice president, I think there was confidence they were serious about trying to have common ground — that progressives would not only be involved in the electoral process but also governing," said Jeff Weaver, Sanders' chief adviser.

For many Democrats, the scars of Sanders' 2016 primary battle against Hillary Clinton had never really healed. Some argued Sanders didn't do enough to support Clinton, damaging her in the general election against Trump. Progressives countered that the party didn't take Sanders seriously and worked to thwart him.

Biden's Medicare concession was an important step in building trust between the wings of the party. The relationship was further solidified after Biden agreed to form several policy committees that featured high-profile figures from opposing factions.

Among the participants on Biden's climate committee: former Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of Sanders' most vocal supporters. Biden didn't issue the invitation to Ocasio-Cortez personally, but was fully on board with bringing her onto the panel.

She'd go on to become a consistent advocate for the 77-year-old establishment figure's election, a stark contrast to the 2016 dynamics Clinton faced from the left flank.

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Trump suddenly had an opportunity to divert attention from the pandemic.

A round of sometimes violent unrest exploded in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, an unarmed Black man, in August.

Some large cities contended with isolated instances of unrest during the summer as part of a broader movement against racial injustice and police violence toward Black Americans. But the events in Kenosha seemed different: The unrest was spreading to smaller cities and in a premier swing state, no less.

Trump had been roundly criticized after mostly peaceful protesters were forcibly removed from a street near the White House in June. But Kenosha fueled his call for "law and order," the mantra championed by presidential candidates Richard Nixon and George Wallace in 1968.

Biden's team worried that his consistent lead in critical Upper Midwest states could deteriorate if Trump's appeal to the fears of white voters resonated. The focus on Kenosha peaked just as Trump hosted the Republican National Convention, drawing fairly positive reviews for delivering a program aimed at expanding his political coalition.

"It was a moment that could have gone sideways," said Biden deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield. "We made a strategic decision to take it head-on."

On the very day he returned to campaigning after nearly six months at home, Biden delivered a fiery speech in Pennsylvania asking voters if they really believed they were safer under Trump's leadership.

Biden highlighted the pandemic's mounting death toll — more than 180,000 Americans at that time — and blamed Trump for causing the divisions that ignited the unrest in the first place.

"He can't stop the violence because for years he's fomented it," Biden charged.

The direct attack on Trump's "law and order" messaging was amplified by Democrats across the country who followed Biden's lead. Within a matter of weeks, any momentum that Trump seemed to have coming out of his convention was forgotten.

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"That was embarrassing for the country."

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Immediately after his first presidential debate against Trump, Biden shared his disgust about his opponent's performance with family and senior staff in a hold room backstage where they dissected the most chaotic 90 minutes in modern presidential politics.

Biden long believed that the opening debate on Sept. 29 could be an opportunity for Trump to reshape the race, and Biden prepared accordingly. Biden and his team spent weeks getting ready.

No one was more meticulous than senior adviser Bob Bauer, a White House counsel under Obama who had played Sanders during Biden's primary debate practice sessions and agreed to embrace the role of Trump.

Like a football coach preparing for a Super Bowl opponent, Bauer watched hundreds of hours of tape on Trump, studying every primary and debate performance from his 2016 campaign, and virtually every rally and news conference in the four years since.

By the time Bauer and Biden stood behind makeshift podiums for their first full 90-minute mock debate inside Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, Bauer had mastered the president's style, his intonations, gestures and, perhaps most important, the specific attacks Trump was most likely to use and how he would deliver them.

Bauer was ruthless in the private sessions, leaning into deeply personal attacks about Biden's family, his decision to step away from campaigning and the perception that he may not have the physical or mental strength to serve as president.

Yet no amount of preparation could truly prepare Biden for what he faced when the real moment came.

With more than 73 million people watching, a belligerent Trump badgered Biden and moderator Chris Wallace with a ceaseless flood of interruptions that rendered the high-profile debate almost unwatchable. Biden didn't have any notable stumbles, but he lost his patience at times and slapped at Trump with unplanned insults.

"Will you shut up, man?" the Democrat said at one point.

The line would later inspire one of the campaign's bestselling T-shirts.

In the hold room afterward, Biden gathered with his wife, his sister Valerie Biden Owens and a couple of senior aides. They believed Biden had clearly bested his opponent, but he was concerned that Trump had debased the debate process itself, something he considered a sacred institution in U.S. politics.

"It's disappointing that the president of the United States would act like that on the debate stage," Biden told them.

In the end, nothing Trump could say or do distracted voters from his fundamental inability to control the pandemic — or even take it seriously as the death toll surged past 232,000 Americans on the eve of the election.

As Biden stayed laser-focused on the health threat, Trump and his top lieutenants fought to convince Americans that the pandemic was almost over. Five days before Election Day, Donald Trump Jr. said on Fox News that coronavirus deaths had dropped to "almost nothing."

That same day, the United States reported more than 90,000 new confirmed COVID-19 infections, another single-day record. The day after Election Day, more than 100,000 Americans tested positive for the first time.

Still, the president kept on mocking Biden's cautiousness.

"When you're president of the United States, you can't lock yourself into a basement," Trump told thousands of Pennsylvania supporters crammed into an outdoor venue, most without masks, the weekend before the election.

Despite the large crowds, people close to Trump were aware that his presidency was hanging by a thread.

The president boarded Air Force One in Miami to start his final day of travel seemingly in a bad mood. Holding a red MAGA hat, he offered a soft wave to reporters but didn't do a customary wave for cameras at the top of the steps.

At the first of five events that day, he wasn't showing much confidence when asked about Wisconsin, where coronavirus spiked to a new record high on Election Day: "I could lose it, I could win it," Trump said.



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Biden, too, was on edge as he watched election returns at home in Wilmington that initially showed a much closer race than pre-election polls had suggested. But he became increasingly confident as the vote counting stretched into the weekend.

He was sitting in his backyard with his wife enjoying an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon when the excited screams of his grandchildren from inside the house confirmed his victory.

In the end, the president-elect earned more than 74 million votes, setting a record and besting Trump by more than 4 million votes nationally. He won by flipping states Trump previously carried in the Midwest and the Southwest and he was even narrowly ahead in Georgia, a Deep South state no Democrat had claimed in nearly three decades.

Trump pledged to fight the results, making wild and unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. But his inner circle was in disarray as news emerged that his chief of staff had been infected with the coronavirus.

Biden was committed as ever to his health experts' recommendations even in victory. He addressed the nation Saturday night from an outdoor stage in a Wilmington parking lot facing supporters gathered in their cars for a drive-in celebration.

Biden walked on stage for the first time as president-elect wearing a mask.

"Our work begins with getting COVID under control," he said. He later added: "We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

Peoples reported from New York, Miller reported from Washington and Kinnard from Columbia, South Carolina. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Brian Slodysko, Jonathan Lemire and Alexandra Jaffe in Washington contributed to this report.

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in many instances approved by Trump personally and aired on stations in Washington, targeted to an audience of one — the president — in a heavily Democratic city.

By early October, the RNC had had enough of the Trump campaign's scattered message and decided to produce its own advertisements offering a more sober message on health care. The message tested better than anything the Trump campaign had done previously.

Despite their public confidence, Trump's own staff seemed increasingly aware of the impending loss. In the final weeks of the campaign, White House staff offices began rotating in aides who had not yet been on Air Force One or not as frequently as others, to give them that experience while they still had the chance.

Trump himself was grappling with his fate in public.

"How the hell can we be tied?" he said at a rally in Carson City, Nevada.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders knew his White House ambitions were over. Biden assumed a commanding lead in the Democratic primary by late March and the pandemic dashed any hopes of a comeback — or even a spirited exchange of ideas that could last until the summer convention.

But before he exited the race, the progressive icon wanted significant policy concessions on health care and education.

Sanders knew that Biden wouldn't agree to support "Medicare for All." The former vice president had aggressively run against it during in the primary. But Sanders believed he could get Biden to agree to lower the age for Medicare eligibility.

Sanders wanted Biden to drop the age to 55 from the current 65. Senior staff from both sides hammered out a compromise, which was later sealed during a private conversation between Sanders and Biden. A few days after Sanders formally stepped aside, Biden announced that he supported lowering the Medicare age to 60.

"Based on the calls that the senator had with the vice president, I think there was confidence they were serious about trying to have common ground — that progressives would not only be involved in the electoral process but also governing," said Jeff Weaver, Sanders' chief adviser.

For many Democrats, the scars of Sanders' 2016 primary battle against Hillary Clinton had never really healed. Some argued Sanders didn't do enough to support Clinton, damaging her in the general election against Trump. Progressives countered that the party didn't take Sanders seriously and worked to thwart him.

Biden's Medicare concession was an important step in building trust between the wings of the party. The relationship was further solidified after Biden agreed to form several policy committees that featured high-profile figures from opposing factions.

Among the participants on Biden's climate committee: former Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of Sanders' most vocal supporters. Biden didn't issue the invitation to Ocasio-Cortez personally, but was fully on board with bringing her onto the panel.

She'd go on to become a consistent advocate for the 77-year-old establishment figure's election, a stark contrast to the 2016 dynamics Clinton faced from the left flank.

Trump suddenly had an opportunity to divert attention from the pandemic.

A round of sometimes violent unrest exploded in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, an unarmed Black man, in August.

Some large cities contended with isolated instances of unrest during the summer as part of a broader movement against racial injustice and police violence toward Black Americans. But the events in Kenosha seemed different: The unrest was spreading to smaller cities and in a premier swing state, no less.

Trump had been roundly criticized after mostly peaceful protesters were forcibly removed from a street near the White House in June. But Kenosha fueled his call for "law and order," the mantra championed by presidential candidates Richard Nixon and George Wallace in 1968.

Biden's team worried that his consistent lead in critical Upper Midwest states could deteriorate if Trump's

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appeal to the fears of white voters resonated. The focus on Kenosha peaked just as Trump hosted the Republican National Convention, drawing fairly positive reviews for delivering a program aimed at expanding his political coalition.

"It was a moment that could have gone sideways," said Biden deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield. "We made a strategic decision to take it head-on."

On the very day he returned to campaigning after nearly six months at home, Biden delivered a fiery speech in Pennsylvania asking voters if they really believed they were safer under Trump's leadership.

Biden highlighted the pandemic's mounting death toll — more than 180,000 Americans at that time — and blamed Trump for causing the divisions that ignited the unrest in the first place.

"He can't stop the violence because for years he's fomented it," Biden charged.

The direct attack on Trump's "law and order" messaging was amplified by Democrats across the country who followed Biden's lead. Within a matter of weeks, any momentum that Trump seemed to have coming out of his convention was forgotten.

"That was embarrassing for the country."

Immediately after his first presidential debate against Trump, Biden shared his disgust about his opponent's performance with family and senior staff in a hold room backstage where they dissected the most chaotic 90 minutes in modern presidential politics.

Biden long believed that the opening debate on Sept. 29 could be an opportunity for Trump to reshape the race, and Biden prepared accordingly. Biden and his team spent weeks getting ready.

No one was more meticulous than senior adviser Bob Bauer, a White House counsel under Obama who had played Sanders during Biden's primary debate practice sessions and agreed to embrace the role of Trump.

Like a football coach preparing for a Super Bowl opponent, Bauer watched hundreds of hours of tape on Trump, studying every primary and debate performance from his 2016 campaign, and virtually every rally and news conference in the four years since.

By the time Bauer and Biden stood behind makeshift podiums for their first full 90-minute mock debate inside Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, Bauer had mastered the president's style, his intonations, gestures and, perhaps most important, the specific attacks Trump was most likely to use and how he would deliver them.

Bauer was ruthless in the private sessions, leaning into deeply personal attacks about Biden's family, his decision to step away from campaigning and the perception that he may not have the physical or mental strength to serve as president.

Yet no amount of preparation could truly prepare Biden for what he faced when the real moment came.

With more than 73 million people watching, a belligerent Trump badgered Biden and moderator Chris Wallace with a ceaseless flood of interruptions that rendered the high-profile debate almost unwatchable. Biden didn't have any notable stumbles, but he lost his patience at times and slapped at Trump with unplanned insults.

"Will you shut up, man?" the Democrat said at one point.

The line would later inspire one of the campaign's bestselling T-shirts.

In the hold room afterward, Biden gathered with his wife, his sister Valerie Biden Owens and a couple of senior aides. They believed Biden had clearly bested his opponent, but he was concerned that Trump had debased the debate process itself, something he considered a sacred institution in U.S. politics.

"It's disappointing that the president of the United States would act like that on the debate stage," Biden told them.

In the end, nothing Trump could say or do distracted voters from his fundamental inability to control the pandemic — or even take it seriously as the death toll surged past 232,000 Americans on the eve of the election.

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As Biden stayed laser-focused on the health threat, Trump and his top lieutenants fought to convince Americans that the pandemic was almost over. Five days before Election Day, Donald Trump Jr. said on Fox News that coronavirus deaths had dropped to "almost nothing."

That same day, the United States reported more than 90,000 new confirmed COVID-19 infections, another single-day record. The day after Election Day, more than 100,000 Americans tested positive for the first time.

Still, the president kept on mocking Biden's cautiousness.

"When you're president of the United States, you can't lock yourself into a basement," Trump told thousands of Pennsylvania supporters crammed into an outdoor venue, most without masks, the weekend before the election.

Despite the large crowds, people close to Trump were aware that his presidency was hanging by a thread.

The president boarded Air Force One in Miami to start his final day of travel seemingly in a bad mood. Holding a red MAGA hat, he offered a soft wave to reporters but didn't do a customary wave for cameras at the top of the steps.

At the first of five events that day, he wasn't showing much confidence when asked about Wisconsin, where coronavirus spiked to a new record high on Election Day: "I could lose it, I could win it," Trump said.

Biden, too, was on edge as he watched election returns at home in Wilmington that initially showed a much closer race than pre-election polls had suggested. But he became increasingly confident as the vote counting stretched into the weekend.

He was sitting in his backyard with his wife enjoying an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon when the excited screams of his grandchildren from inside the house confirmed his victory.

In the end, the president-elect earned more than 74 million votes, setting a record and besting Trump by more than 4 million votes nationally. He won by flipping states Trump previously carried in the Midwest and the Southwest and he was even narrowly ahead in Georgia, a Deep South state no Democrat had claimed in nearly three decades.

Trump pledged to fight the results, making wild and unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. But his inner circle was in disarray as news emerged that his chief of staff had been infected with the coronavirus.

Biden was committed as ever to his health experts' recommendations even in victory. He addressed the nation Saturday night from an outdoor stage in a Wilmington parking lot facing supporters gathered in their cars for a drive-in celebration.

Biden walked on stage for the first time as president-elect wearing a mask.

"Our work begins with getting COVID under control," he said. He later added: "We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

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Peoples reported from New York, Miller reported from Washington and Kinnard from Columbia, South Carolina. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Brian Slodysko, Jonathan Lemire and Alexandra Jaffe in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Black leaders greet Biden win, pledge to push for equality**

By KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden's victory was celebrated by civil rights activists and Black leaders who warned that a tough road lies ahead to address America's persistent inequalities and the racial division that Donald Trump fueled during his presidency.

Biden will take office in January as the nation confronts a series of crises that have taken a disproportionate toll on Black Americans and people of color, including the pandemic and resulting job losses. Many cities saw protests against racial injustice during a summer of unrest.

During a contentious campaign against Trump, Biden made explicit appeals for the support of Black voters. He pledged to unify the country, acknowledged systemic racism, criticized his rival for stoking division and picked Kamala Harris as his running mate, making her the first Black woman on a major party's

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presidential ticket. While those were all welcomed steps, Black leaders and activists say they will keep pushing the incoming administration to do more.

"This is just the beginning of change and the election of any one administration does not mean the work is done," said civil rights leader Martin Luther King III, who noted the vision of his father, Martin Luther King Jr., has yet to be fully realized in America, 57 years after he delivered his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. "Dad and Mom wanted to eradicate poverty, racism and violence from our society and that will take a monumental effort. A Biden-Harris administration has to constantly be challenged and pushed to move."

Black voters powered Biden's successful campaign, particularly in critical states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia. Nine in 10 Black voters nationwide supported him, according to AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of more than 110,000 voters across the country.

"Vice President Biden understands that we are fully formed American citizens who deserve to have full access to all the parts of progress in the United States," said Stacey Abrams, a voting rights activist and former Georgia gubernatorial candidate. "He's been willing to commit not only to plans, but he's been willing to take responsibility for how those plans get lived out. ... I want to see proper access to opportunity and I think fundamentally that is the wish, that is the hope, and that is the deserved right of every Black person in this country."

Latino voters supported Biden over Trump, 63% to 35%, according to the survey. White voters, who made up roughly three-quarters of the electorate, were more likely to support Trump, 55% vs. 43% for Biden.

More than 74 million Americans voted for Biden, more than any other presidential candidate in history. But some Black political strategists and activists noted the 70 million votes for Trump, suggesting that some of those Trump supporters at a minimum turned a blind eye to the racism he demonstrated.

"We have been lulled for so long in this country that when you have somebody like President Donald J. Trump come along and be so blatant with his racism, it's a shock to the senses," said Nina Turner, a Black progressive and former Ohio state senator. "But this country should not be deluded that it's just Trump, it's millions of people. A lot of white liberals, they're very comfortable with pointing the finger at President Trump. But they need to look in the mirror...because he is just a reflection of what is already a reality in this country."

While Biden enjoyed strong support from Black voters, there was also frustration about the pressure placed on their communities to deliver a victory.

African Americans, who are the Democratic Party's most loyal voting bloc, face a battle for racial progress in a nation whose very founding embraced racist, predatory systems that continue to disparately harm Black people today.

And America has yet to fully reckon with that racist past, which left generations of Black Americans struggling to achieve the American dream or to overcome the effects of Trump's election in 2016, which many experts saw as a blow to civil rights and race relations.

"We've been here before where we've seen a country that has been deeply divided over race and the complicit role of whites who should be sympathetic to Black interests and issues due to the shared economic fate but they aren't," said Nadia Brown, a Purdue University political science professor. "People will just try to put their heads in the sand because they don't want to be culpable or deal with America's history and its present day. America was founded on the idea of American exceptionalism but structural racism flies in the face of this and even good liberals don't want to hear that."

In 2016, a coalition composed largely of white voters powered Trump's win over then-challenger Hillary Clinton. At the time, many said they voted for Trump because of his economic plans, which included bringing back manufacturing jobs and auto plants.

But Ashley Jardina, assistant professor of political science at Duke University and author of the book "White Identity Politics," said many white Americans supported Trump in 2016 and again in 2020 not solely because they are willing to turn a blind eye to racism, but because they outright agree with a lot of his rhetoric and views on race.

"That means many not only fail to see racism as a problem in the U.S., but they also express greater

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levels of hostility toward people of color," Jardina said, noting the views of white Americans on race have increasingly aligned with their political views over the past eight years.

The killings of Breonna Taylor, who was shot and killed inside her Kentucky home, and that of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for nearly eight minutes, sparked global protests against police brutality and thrust racism in America into an international spotlight.

Those protesters will be looking for Biden and Harris to address their concerns and create progressive policies to address the root causes of police violence, according to Jessica Byrd, who leads the Movement for Black Lives' Electoral Justice Project, and believes Biden and Harris have demonstrated a willingness to engage with the protest movement and organizers.

"Elections are about moving the ball forward and choosing your organizing target," Byrd said, adding the movement will pivot toward pushing for legislation and policies like the BREATHE Act, which would transform the nation's criminal justice system and invest in communities. "We fully intend to show up in the really important days between November and the inauguration and demonstrate our vision for Black lives is real. We have demands of the first 100 days of a Biden-Harris administration."

Some activists on the ground remain skeptical. In Philadelphia, protests flared in recent days after police shot and killed 27-year-old Walter Wallace Jr.

Longtime activist Abdul-Aliy Muhammad is concerned Biden and Harris won't address the root causes of police brutality, poverty and other structural issues that have long plagued Philadelphia.

"Biden nor Kamala Harris historically have policies that positively impact Black Philadelphians," Muhammad said. "We know with Biden or Kamala Harris in office, we're still going to need to organize and we're going to still have to fight for our material conditions to shift."

Biden's election also represents hope with the historic candidacy of Harris, who will become the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent, to enter the White House—which some believe will create a ripple effect, opening doors for more women of color and Black Americans to ascend to the highest ranks of American politics.

"Anti-Black racism continues to shape law, culture, politics and more in this country and impact brutally on the lives of Black Americans," said Jones, author of "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All." "And at the same time, I think Senator Harris' ascent to the vice presidency tells us that Black Americans, including Black women, are nonetheless arriving in a new place in the story of American politics."

Michigan resident Nia Crutcher, who just turned 18 and voted for the first time, represents the next generation of Americans. Crutcher, a Black woman and first-year college student, cast her ballot for Biden.

"I don't think racism will be solved because Biden is elected because it's an issue we need to work on over the years. But I feel that with Biden being elected, there will definitely be more progress," Crutcher said. "I'm hopeful."

## **Analysis: Biden claims a mandate that will quickly be tested**

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden's bet on the 2020 race was a simple one: that a nation riven by deep partisanship was ready for a reset.

He knew he wouldn't be the most electric candidate or the most compelling speaker. He knew that he was running as an old, white man in a party that is growing younger and more diverse. He knew that to win, he would need both the energy of liberals and the support of centrists, slices of the electorate with little in common beyond a shared disdain for President Donald Trump.

Biden ultimately emerged victorious, a moment of both celebration and relief for his supporters. But the results sent mixed messages about the nation's eagerness to turn the page on one of the most polarized periods in modern American history.

Biden carried some of the key battleground states, including Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, by narrow margins. He won more votes nationwide than any presidential candidate — more than 74 million and

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counting — but Trump's popular vote total also topped previous records, reflecting the president's hold not only on his core supporters but the Republican Party at large.

With victory in hand, Biden has claimed a mandate. Whether he actually has one will soon be put to the test.

Not only were Biden's margins of victory in the battleground states tight, but Democrats struggled in Senate races across the country. Their hopes of flipping the chamber and giving Biden the leverage he would need to pass major legislation will likely rest on a pair of Senate runoffs in Georgia in January.

The 2020 campaign also made abundantly clear the depths of Trump's support, particularly among white, rural Americans. They saw in Trump an unlikely kindred spirit, a president who fought aggressively against establishment forces in Washington, in Hollywood and other pantheons of power. He made his supporters' grievances his own and gave them a voice where they believed they had none.

Trump has also so far not conceded the election to Biden, vowing to launch unspecified legal challenges to the outcome. His refusal to concede, however, does not have any practical impact on Biden's victory.

Trump can, however, make Biden's transition into the White House difficult. He gets 10 more weeks in office and can wield his executive powers across a range of issues. And once he does depart the White House, he'll still have his high-octane Twitter feed, and perhaps even a continuation of his rallies, to keep mobilizing his supporters.

Biden will have to navigate that deep divide among Americans. And in Washington, he may try to revive a lost art: bipartisan compromise.

Some Democrats scoff at the notion that Republicans might see any incentive to work with Biden. Others believe Biden's long history in the Senate gives him a fighting chance of winning over some in the GOP.

"The fact that he has long-standing relationships with Republicans in the House and Senate will be an advantage. He's a known quantity to them," said Valerie Jarrett, who worked with Biden while serving as a senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

Biden will also be pushed from the left flank of his own party. Liberals largely put aside their own frustrations with Biden's more moderate record during the general election, deciding that the need to defeat Trump was greater than their differences with the former vice president's health care or climate change proposals.

"Electing Biden is not the end-all, it is the beginning," said Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who challenged Biden for the Democratic nomination, then led the way in urging progressives to back him.

Biden's victory does bring to an end Trump's tumultuous administration and signals a new approach to the nation's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, economic uncertainty and social unrest.

Throughout the 2020 race, Biden cast the stakes as nothing short of existential, warning that four more years of a Trump presidency would "fundamentally change the nature of who we are as a nation." This was more than an election, he argued, it was a battle for the very soul of America. It sounded like a cliché, but seemed to resonate with more Americans with each passing week of the campaign.

Part of Biden's argument centered on the goodwill he had built up with voters, particularly during his eight years as vice president. Despite relentless attacks from Trump for more than a year, a majority of Americans maintained a favorable impression of the former vice president. When Trump tried to brand Biden as a far-left socialist or a corrupt criminal, Biden's strongest rejoinder was often to turn to a camera and tell Americans, "You know me."

"For voters, they knew who he was, they knew what he stood for, they knew he was a good person with an honest heart," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, one of two dozen Democrats who challenged Biden for the party's nomination. "He really was the right man for the moment."

For many Americans, the direct consequences of Trump's presidency grew more dire in these final months of the campaign, as the coronavirus pandemic took hold. More than 236,000 people in the U.S. have died from the virus, the highest confirmed total in the world, and the country is setting more records for cases as the weather cools and more activities move indoors. The pandemic is also blamed for wiping away millions of jobs, and there are fears of another economic downturn to come.



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Biden took a calculated risk as the pandemic took hold, turning his own campaign into a model of how he would manage the crisis as president. He shuttered his campaign headquarters and halted his in-person events; when he did travel, he wore a mask and kept his distance from others. The contrast between Biden and Trump, who continued traveling the country for rallies and ultimately contracted the virus himself, was stark.

Now, the pandemic and its ripples across nearly every aspect of American life will soon be Biden's to manage. He will inherit one of the most complex sets of issues to face an incoming president since Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933 during the Great Depression.

For a moment, however, Biden can bask in the crowning achievement of his nearly five-decade career in public life. He ran for the presidency twice before 2020, both failed, short-lived campaigns. After he passed on running in 2016, it appeared likely his White House ambitions would go unfulfilled.

It was Trump who pulled him back into the arena, who gave his campaign a sense of purpose. It is Trump who helped him win.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>.

## Harris pays tribute to Black women in 1st speech as VP-elect

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

Vice president-elect Kamala Harris on Saturday paid tribute to the women, particularly Black women, whose shoulders she stands on as she shatters barriers that have kept mostly white men entrenched at the highest levels of American politics for more than two centuries.

"Tonight I reflect on their struggle, their determination and the strength of their vision to see what can be unburdened by what has been," Harris said, wearing a white suit in tribute to women's suffrage. She called it a testament to President-elect Joe Biden's character that "he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country, and select a woman and his vice president."

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," Harris said in her first post-election address to the nation.

The 56-year-old California senator, also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, represents the multiculturalism that defines America but is largely absent from Washington's power centers. Her Black identity has allowed her to speak in personal terms in a year of reckoning over police brutality and systemic racism. As the highest-ranking woman ever elected in American government, her victory gives hope to women who were devastated by Hillary Clinton's defeat four years ago.

Harris told little children to "dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they're never seen it before." After Biden's speech, she was joined on stage by her family, including her two grandnieces who wore white dresses.

A rising star in Democratic politics for much of the last two decades, Harris served as San Francisco's district attorney and California's attorney general before becoming a U.S. senator. After she ended her own 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, Joe Biden tapped her as his running mate. They will be sworn in as president and vice president on Jan. 20.

Biden's running mate selection carried added significance because he will be the oldest president ever inaugurated, at 78, and hasn't committed to seeking a second term in 2024.

Harris often framed her candidacy as part of the legacy of pioneering Black women who came before her, including educator Mary McLeod Bethune, civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer and Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the first Black candidate to seek a major party's presidential nomination, in 1972.

She paid tribute to Black women "who are too often overlooked but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy."

Despite the excitement surrounding Harris, she and Biden face steep challenges, including a pandemic that has taken a disproportionate toll on people of color, and a series of police killings of Black Americans

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that have deepened racial tensions. Harris' past work as a prosecutor has prompted skepticism among progressives and young voters who are looking to her to back sweeping institutional change over incremental reforms in policing, drug policy and more.

Jessica Byrd, who leads the Movement for Black Lives' Electoral Justice Project and The Frontline, a multiracial coalition effort to galvanize voters, said she plans to engage in the rigorous organizing work needed to push Harris and Biden toward more progressive policies.

"I deeply believe in the power of Black women's leadership, even when all of our politics don't align," Byrd said. "I want us to be committed to the idea that representation is exciting and it's worthy of celebration and also that we have millions of Black women who deserve a fair shot."

Harris is the second Black woman elected to the Senate. Her colleague, Sen. Cory Booker, who is also Black, said her very presence makes the institution "more accessible to more people" and suggested she would accomplish the same with the vice presidency.

Harris was born in 1964 to two parents active in the civil rights movement. Shyamala Gopalan, from India, and Donald Harris, from Jamaica, met at the University of California, Berkeley, then a hotbed of 1960s activism. They divorced when Harris and her sister were girls, and Harris was raised by her late mother, whom she considers the most important influence in her life.

"When she came here from India at the age of 19, she maybe didn't quite imagine this moment. But she believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible," Harris said Saturday night.

Kamala is Sanskrit for "lotus flower," and Harris gave nods to her Indian heritage throughout the campaign, including with a callout to her "chitthis," a Tamil word for a maternal aunt, in her first speech as Biden's running mate. When Georgia Sen. David Perdue mocked her name in an October rally, the hashtag #MyNameIs took off on Twitter, with South Asians sharing the meanings behind their names.

The mocking of her name by Republicans, including Trump, was just one of the attacks Harris faced. Trump and his allies sought to brand her as radical and a socialist despite her more centrist record, an effort aimed at making people uncomfortable about the prospect of a Black woman in leadership. She was the target of online disinformation laced with racism and sexism about her qualifications to serve as president.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal of Washington said Harris' power comes not just from her life experience but also from the people she already represents. California is the nation's most populous and one of its most diverse states; nearly 40% of people are Latino and 15% are Asian. In Congress, Harris and Jayapal have teamed up on bills to ensure legal representation for Muslims targeted by Trump's 2017 travel ban and to extend rights to domestic workers.

"That's the kind of policy that also happens when you have voices like ours at the table," said Jayapal, who in 2016 was the first South Asian woman elected to the U.S. House.

Harris' mother raised her daughters with the understanding the world would see them as Black women, Harris has said, and that is how she describes herself today.

She attended Howard University, one of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities, and pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha, the nation's first sorority created by and for Black women. She campaigned regularly at HBCUs and tried to address the concerns of young Black men and women eager for strong efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

Her victory could usher more Black women and people of color into politics.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who considers Harris a mentor, views Harris' success through the lens of her own identity as the granddaughter of a sharecropper.

"African Americans are not far removed from slavery and the horrors of racism in this country, and we're still feeling the impacts of that with how we're treated and what's happening around this racial uprising," she said. Harris' candidacy "instills a lot of pride and a lot of hope and a lot of excitement in what is possible."

Harris is married to a Jewish man, Doug Emhoff, whose children from a previous marriage call her "Moma." The excitement about her candidacy extends to women across races.

Friends Sarah Lane and Kelli Hodge, each with three daughters, brought all six girls to a Harris rally in Phoenix in the race's closing days. "This car is full of little girls who dream big. Go Kamala!" read a sign

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taped on the car's trunk.

Lane, a 41-year-old attorney who is of Hispanic and Asian heritage, volunteered for Biden and Harris, her first time ever working for a political campaign. Asked why she brought her daughters, ages 6, 9, and 11, to see Harris, she answered, "I want my girls to see what women can do."

Associated Press writer Kat Stafford in Detroit contributed to this report.

## 2020 Latest: Trump, GOP sue in Arizona over ballot handling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the presidential campaign (all times local):

10:40 p.m.

The Trump campaign and Republican National Committee filed a lawsuit Saturday in Arizona that seeks the manual inspection of potentially thousands of in-person Election Day ballots in metro Phoenix that they allege were mishandled by poll workers and resulted in some ballot selections to be disregarded.

The legal challenge against Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs centers on instances in which people are believed to have voted for more candidates than permitted.

When tabulators detect such an "overvote," poll workers should give voters a choice to fix the problem, but the workers instead either pressed or told voters to press a button on the machine to override the error, leaving the devices to disregard the problematic ballot selections, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed hours after the dismissal of another Arizona election lawsuit that contested the use of Sharpie markers in completing Election Day ballots in Maricopa County. Even though election officials have said voting with a Sharpie would not invalidate a ballot, many social media users in the controversy known as #Sharpiegate have falsely claimed their ballots had been invalidated because they were told to use the markers.

Hobbs spokeswoman Sophia Solis said the secretary of state's office is still reviewing the lawsuit, but added that the latest lawsuit "is seemingly a repackaged 'Sharpiegate' lawsuit."

While the Trump campaign's lawsuit doesn't mention Sharpies, it focuses on how ink splotches on a ballot are handled by electronic tabulators and raises the possibility of overvotes.

9:10 p.m.

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris brought their entire families on-stage with them to close out their victory party on Saturday night.

After delivering speeches outside of the Chase Center in downtown Wilmington, Delaware, the two were joined by their families to watch as red white and blue fireworks exploded in the sky. A collection of drones spelling out "USA" and outlining Biden's logo flashed in the sky, prompting the Democrat to gaze at the sky with his mouth wide in delight. Biden's wife Jill, seven grandkids, his son Hunter and daughter Ashley all gathered around him, and he bounced one of his youngest grandchildren as the family enjoyed the display.

Harris, meanwhile, was joined by her sister Maya, her niece Meena and her husband, Doug Emhoff, as well as her two stepchildren. Harris wrapped her arms around a younger grand-niece as they watched the celebration, with more than 1,000 supporters dancing and waving American flags and Biden campaign signs. It was a celebratory ending to a day that was otherwise largely spent by the two Democrats waiting and watching as final returns rolled in.

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE:

Democrat Joe Biden has defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States. He won Pennsylvania on Saturday to exceed the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House. Biden also carried Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin and Michigan on his path to making Trump the first incumbent since George H.W. Bush to lose his bid for a second term.

Read more:

— Biden wins White House, vowing new direction for divided US

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- Harris becomes first Black woman, South Asian elected VP
- Joe Biden: Stumbles, tragedies and, now, delayed triumph
- Trump defied gravity; now falls back to earth, future TBD
- EXPLAINER: Why AP called the 2020 election for Joe Biden

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON:

9:05 p.m.

Joe Biden will unveil a group of scientists and experts to help him craft a plan to tackle the coronavirus pandemic on Monday.

Biden announced his plans to launch the COVID-19 task force during remarks at his victory party Saturday night. He said those advisers would help him take the proposals he's released during the campaign for dealing with the pandemic — which include investments in personal protective equipment and loans for small businesses as well as plans to implement more standardized public health guidelines — and turn those proposals into a "blueprint" that he'll enact when inaugurated president next January.

Biden said the plan would be "built on bedrock science" and "constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern." Biden made President Donald Trump's mishandling of the pandemic a central focus of his campaign and pledged that his top priority as president would be managing the virus.

Biden said that "our work begins with getting COVID under control", adding Americans "cannot repair the economy, restore our economy or relish life's most precious moments" without doing so.

9 p.m.

In his first speech after securing the White House, President-elect Joe Biden is making an appeal to supporters of President Donald Trump.

Biden said Saturday night in Wilmington, Delaware, that "this is the time to heal in America" and pledged to be a president to represent even those who didn't support him.

Noting "I've lost a couple times myself," Biden said, "now, let's give each other a chance."

Trump has not conceded the race to Biden, pursuing legal challenges over ballot counts in several states.

Biden said "it's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again," saying of his political opponents, "they are not our enemies. They are Americans."

8:55 p.m.

Joe Biden is pledging to be a president "who seeks not to divide but to unify."

Biden is delivering his first remarks as president-elect at a victory party in Wilmington, after he was officially declared the winner of the presidential election on Saturday. Biden jogged onto the stage wearing a black suit, black mask and light blue tie. He pointed and waved at the screaming crowd gathered to hear him speak.

Echoing his campaign stump speech, Biden promised to be a president who "doesn't see red states or blue states, only sees the United States," and said he would work "with all my heart" to win the confidence of all Americans.

Biden touted the fact that he's won more votes than any presidential ticket in history, calling his win "a convincing victory, a victory for the people." He also said he was "surprised" by seeing the celebrations and an "outpouring of joy" in the wake of his win nationwide.

Biden said that "once again, America's bent the arc of the moral universe more toward justice."

8:50 p.m.

Vice president-elect Kamala Harris is paying tribute to Black women who "so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy."

Harris, the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, is the first woman to be elected to the vice presidency.

Harris noted her ascension to the role comes 100 years after the 19th Amendment was ratified and 55 years after the signing of the Voting Rights Act, which expanded who could participate in American

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democracy.

She praised Joe Biden for having “the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exist in our country” by selecting a woman as his running mate.

“Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a county of possibilities,” Harris said.

The remarks were some of the most direct she has delivered about her history-making role as Biden’s running mate.

8:45 p.m.

Vice president-elect Kamala Harris says voters have “ushered in a new day for America.”

Harris is speaking Saturday in her first address to the nation since she and Joe Biden were declared the winners of the presidential election.

Harris says voters chose hope, unity, decency, science and truth in choosing she and Biden over President Donald Trump.

Harris, the first woman to be elected vice president, wore a white pantsuit in tribute to women’s suffrage. She also opened her remarks with a tribute to the late Georgia Congressman John Lewis, a Civil Rights icon, who said democracy is not a state but an act. Harris will also be the first Black woman to serve as vice president.

8:30 p.m.

Hundreds of cars filled the parking lot outside the Wilmington convention center in Delaware for a drive-in rally to celebrate Joe Biden’s victory in the presidential race.

With temperatures mild Saturday night, more than 1,000 people sat on the roofs of their cars or milled around in small groups nearby, many cheering and waving American flags or Biden campaign signs. The smell of grilling meat hung in the air not unlike a football tailgate, and some of the attendees danced and sang, sweating through facemasks that appeared to be nearly universally worn.

The campaign set up cranes with towering American flags, an American-flag lined stage and projected a 10-story tall Biden-Harris logo over a digital American flag on the side of a hotel beside the convention center. Blue and red lights illuminated state flags perched on the roof of another nearby building.

Organizers first erected the stage on Tuesday night, expecting to hold a Biden Election Night party. As vote counting continued and no winner was declared, the campaign kept the stage intact and the parking lot remained surrounded by high security fences with police controlling all access in and out.

8:15 p.m.

“The President will accept the results of a free and fair election.”

That’s the message from a White House official Saturday, even as President Donald Trump is refusing to concede after losing to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump has insisted he will contest the results and his campaign has launched a flurry of legal action in a handful of states trying to overturn Biden victories.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said the Trump administration is following all statutory requirements that govern government transitions.

6:20 p.m.

The #Sharpiegate controversy may be over now that the attorneys who challenged the use of the markers to complete Election Day ballots in metro Phoenix told a court they’re dismissing their legal challenge.

Roopali Desai, an attorney for Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, said she received notice Saturday from the court that the lawyers who filed the lawsuit are now ending the case.

A copy of the dismissal notice provided to The Associated Press doesn’t specify a reason for dismissing the case, and Alexander Kolodin, one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit, declined a request for comment.

Arizona election officials have said voting with a Sharpie would not invalidate their ballot. But many social

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media users have falsely claimed their ballots had been invalidated because they were told to use the markers to fill out their ballots.

The lawsuit alleged tabulation equipment was unable to record a voter's ballot on Tuesday because she completed it with a Sharpie. One of the remedies sought by the lawsuit was for voters who used Sharpies to be present to watch workers count ballots, a proposition that the judge expressed skepticism about.

Election officials say votes wouldn't be cancelled if ink from a Sharpie bleeds through the back side of ballots and that there is a process that would keep the ballots from being canceled out if problems arise.

6:15 p.m.

News of President-elect Joe Biden's victory on Saturday set off celebrations and protests as jubilant supporters and frustrated opponents took to the streets in California's major cities. Supporters of President Donald Trump rallied outside the state Capitol in Sacramento and marched in Beverly Hills demanding a recount of votes. Meanwhile, people threw block parties in Oakland as they expressed hometown pride in Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her history-making turn as the first Black woman elected to the second-highest office in the United States. Similar scenes played out in San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities where people danced on the street and honked their car horns.

3:15 p.m.

President Donald Trump has returned to the White House and a very different Washington, D.C., after losing his reelection bid.

Trump's motorcade returned from his golf club in Virginia via roads largely cleared of other cars and people Saturday afternoon.

But as he approached the White House, he was welcomed home with boos and raised middle fingers. Chants of "Loser, loser, loser" and profanities were also heard as his motorcade drove by.

Trump has so far refused to concede to President-elect Joe Biden and is promising legal challenges. He is the first president to lose reelection since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

3:05 p.m.

Joe Biden has spoken to Barack Obama, reaching out to the former president with one of his first calls as president-elect.

Biden's campaign confirmed the phone call Saturday with Obama, whom Biden served under as vice president for eight years, but offered few details on what was said.

Meanwhile, Michelle Obama took to Twitter to say that she was "beyond thrilled" that Biden had been elected president and that his running mate, Kamala Harris, is "our first Black and Indian-American woman" as vice president.

In a series of tweets, the former first lady said the pair would "restore some dignity, competence, and heart at the White House."

But Michelle Obama also warned supporters that voting in elections for candidates who win "isn't a magic wand."

"Let's remember that tens of millions of people voted for the status quo, even when it meant supporting lies, hate, chaos and division," she tweeted, in a swipe at President Donald Trump. "We've got a lot of work to do to reach out to these folks in the years ahead and connect with them on what unites us."

2:55 p.m.

Republicans on Capitol Hill are giving President Donald Trump and his campaign space to consider all its legal options after his election defeat by President-elect Joe Biden. That's according to one Republican who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation.

It's a precarious balance for Trump's allies as they try to be supportive of the president but face the reality of the vote count. Trump is so far refusing to concede.

On Saturday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had not yet made any public statements.

Scott Jennings, a Republican strategist in Kentucky allied with McConnell, said, "I'm not sure his position would have changed from yesterday -- count all the votes, adjudicate all the claims."

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Jennings added, "My sense is there won't be any tolerance for beyond what the law allows. There will be tolerance for what the law allows."

It was a view being echoed by several other Republicans neither supporting nor rejecting the outcome. Said retiring GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who is close with McConnell: "After counting every valid vote and allowing courts to resolve disputes, it is important to respect and promptly accept the result."

— By AP writer Lisa Mascaro

2:35 p.m.

Several hundred people have gathered outside President Donald Trump's Virginia golf club after his election loss to President-elect Joe Biden.

The crowd includes dozens of Biden supporters celebrating his win, singing, "Hey hey hey, goodbye" and chanting, "Lock him up!" — a chant frequently heard at Trump rallies, directed at people he doesn't like.

There are also dozens of Trump supporters, many waving large Trump flags and chanting, "We love Trump!" A convoy of trucks festooned with pro-Trump and American flags has been driving up and down the street, with one driver jeering at the gathered press.

There's horn honking, cowbell ringing, whistle-blowing and plenty of cheering.

Trump was golfing when a flurry of media outlets, including The Associated Press, declared Saturday morning that Biden had won the election.

He is now on his way back to the White House.

2:15 p.m.

The secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is welcoming the election of Joe Biden, calling him "a strong supporter of NATO and the transatlantic relationship."

Jens Stoltenberg said Saturday in a statement that he looks forward to working with Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris "to further strengthen the bond between North America and Europe."

He added that "US leadership is as important as ever in an unpredictable world."

President Donald Trump had been a ferocious critic of NATO during his 2016 campaign and repeatedly threatened to pull the U.S. from the alliance upon assuming office.

Trump pressed members of the alliance to boost their defense spending — a priority of his predecessors as well — in furtherance of collective defense. He also pushed the alliance to turn its focus from Russia to emerging threats from China and terrorism.

2:10 p.m.

Congressional Republican leaders have been notably silent on President-elect Joe Biden's victory, but several GOP allies of President Donald Trump are disputing the outcome.

Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri tweeted Saturday: "The media do not get to determine who the president is. The people do." He added, "When all lawful votes have been counted, recounts finished, and allegations of fraud addressed, we will know who the winner is."

Other rank-and-file Republican lawmakers took a similar approach, insisting on waiting for some other verification of the results.

"Voters decide who wins the election, not the media," tweeted Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. "I fully support President Trump as he continues to fight for every legal vote to be counted."

Trump has so far refused to concede and is promising legal challenges. He is the first president to lose reelection since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

2 p.m.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who found himself at the center of President Donald Trump's impeachment, is congratulating Trump's replacement, President-elect Joe Biden.

In a Saturday tweet, Zelenskyy said "Ukraine is optimistic about the future of the strategic partnership with the United States." He added that the two countries "have always collaborated on security, trade,

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investment, democracy, fight against corruption. Our friendship becomes only stronger!”

A 2019 call from Trump to Zelenskiy, in which he asked the new Ukrainian leader to investigate Biden and the Democratic National Committee, sparked an intelligence community whistleblower complaint that resulted in Trump’s impeachment last year.

Trump was eventually acquitted by the Republican-led Senate.

1:40 p.m.

Sen. Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, is congratulating President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

The Utah Republican tweeted Saturday that he and his wife know Biden and Harris “as people of good will and admirable character.” He says, “We pray that God may bless them in the days and years ahead.”

Romney, President Donald Trump’s most vocal critic within the Republican Party, said Friday that Trump was “damaging the cause of freedom” and inflaming “destructive and dangerous passions” by claiming, without foundation, that the election was rigged and stolen from him.

Trump has so far refused to concede and is promising unspecified legal challenges.

Romney had said earlier in the year that he wasn’t voting for Trump. He didn’t say for whom he did vote, however.

1:25 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer jointly called President-elect Joe Biden to congratulate him on a “tremendous” victory.

That’s according to a senior Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation.

The aide described it as a “happy call.” Biden’s wife, Jill, also joined the conversation Saturday.

The aide says Pelosi and Schumer look forward to working with the new Democratic administration to achieve “great things” for the American people. The two did not get along with President Donald Trump.

Another senior Democratic aide says Schumer was celebrating on the streets of Brooklyn during the call and held up his phone so Biden could hear the crowds cheering for his “historic victory.” The aide also spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private call.

— By AP writer Lisa Mascaro

1:20 p.m.

The highest-ranking Black member of Congress says he specifically advised President-elect Joe Biden to pick a Black woman as his running mate if he wanted to win the White House.

House House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn told CNN on Saturday, “I said to him in private that I thought that a lot of the results would turn on whether or not there would be a Black woman” on the ticket.

Of selecting California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate, Clyburn said, “I think it cemented his relationship to the Black community.”

Clyburn’s pivotal endorsement of Biden ahead of South Carolina’s early Democratic primary, the first in which Black voters played an outsize role, helped Biden develop the momentum that propelled him to successes in other primary and caucus contests, and ultimately to the Democratic nomination.

1:15 p.m.

Leaders of the United States’ traditional Western allies are offering their congratulations to the incoming Joe Biden administration.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement Saturday that the U.S. is the United Kingdom’s “most important ally” and added that he looks “forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security.”

Johnson also singled out Vice President-elect Kamala Harris for “her historic achievement” as the first



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woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to win national U.S. office.

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted that "we have a lot to do to overcome today's challenges. Let's work together!"

And Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he's eager to start "tackling the world's greatest challenges together."

All three men have had complicated and at times strained relationships with President Donald Trump.

Biden comes to the presidency with extensive foreign policy experience and said throughout his campaign that he'd immediately work to shore us U.S. relationships with traditional allies.

1:10 p.m.

Former President Barack Obama says he "could not be prouder" to congratulate President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

In a statement Saturday, Obama says Biden has "got what it takes to be President and already carries himself that way," because he will enter the White House facing "a series of extraordinary challenges no incoming President ever has."

Acknowledging that the election revealed the nation remains bitterly divided, Obama said, "I know he'll do the job with the best interests of every American at heart, whether or not he had their vote."

He adds: "I encourage every American to give him a chance and lend him your support."

Biden served as Obama's vice president for two terms.

1 p.m.

Two former Democratic presidents are offering their congratulations to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Bill Clinton tweeted that "America has spoken and democracy has won." The 42nd president also predicted Biden and Harris would "serve all of us and bring us all together."

Jimmy Carter, the 39th president, said in a statement Saturday that he and his wife, Rosalynn, are "proud" of the Democrats' "well-run campaign and seeing the positive change they bring to our nation."

Neither Clinton nor Carter mentioned President Donald Trump in their congratulatory remarks.

Biden was a young Delaware senator when Carter served as president from 1977 to 1981. Biden had risen in the ranks to Senate Judiciary Committee chairman by Clinton's presidency in the 1990s and led confirmation hearings for Clinton's two Supreme Court nominees: Justice Stephen Breyer and the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

12:50 p.m.

The Trump administration has yet to formally begin the transition to President-elect Joe Biden.

A spokesperson for the General Services Administration said early Saturday afternoon that the administrator, Emily Murphy, has not formally ascertained that Biden is the "apparent winner" of the race. The Associated Press declared Biden the victor of the race late Saturday morning.

The formal ascertainment frees up millions of dollars and opens doors at federal agencies to Biden transition staffers to begin implementing transition plans.

The spokesperson says, "GSA and its Administrator will continue to abide by, and fulfill, all requirements under the law."

For his part, President Donald Trump is not conceding the race and is promising unspecified legal challenges seeking to overturn the outcome of the race.

12:45 p.m.

President-elect Joe Biden is planning to address the nation on Saturday night.

His presidential campaign announced that Biden and his wife, Jill, and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff will appear at a drive-in rally outside the convention center in Wilmington, Delaware.

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Biden clinched the White House over President Donald Trump late Saturday morning with a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born. He later added Nevada to his column for a total of 290 electoral votes with three states uncalled.

The outdoor stage in Wilmington features projections of the Biden-Harris logo, colored lights and a line of towering American flags. Outside the security fence, people were already arriving with Biden campaign signs and chanting, "Joe! Joe!" and yelling, "We did it!" Cars in the area honked.

12:30 p.m.

Across the country, there were parties and prayer after Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency.

In New York City, spontaneous block parties broke out Saturday. People ran out of their buildings, banging on pots. They danced and high-fived with strangers amid honking horns.

People streamed into Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, waving signs and taking cellphone pictures.

In Lansing, Michigan, Donald Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter demonstrators filled the Capitol steps.

The lyrics to "Amazing Grace" began to echo through the crowd, and the Trump supporters put their hands on a counterprotester and prayed.

12:25 p.m.

Hillary Clinton is congratulating the "history making ticket" of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris upon their victory over President Donald Trump.

Clinton, who lost to Trump in 2016, called the election "a repudiation of Trump, and a new page for America."

Harris will become the first woman to hold national office. Clinton was the first woman to be a major party nominee for president. She won almost 3 million more votes than Trump but fell short in key battleground states to lose the Electoral College.

The Biden-Harris ticket was able to flip several of those states, including Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

12:15 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump is a "mandate for action."

The Democratic leader said in a statement Saturday: "Today marks the dawning of a new day of hope for America."

Pelosi called Biden's vote tally a "historic victory." She says President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will have a strong Democratic House majority "by their side."

Biden clinched the White House with a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born. He also won Nevada on Saturday.

12:13 p.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won Nevada, adding to his Electoral College victory over President Donald Trump. Biden clinched Nevada on Saturday afternoon, shortly after he won the presidency by taking Pennsylvania.

Trump had made a strong play in Nevada, holding several rallies there in the final stretch of the campaign. Democrat Hillary Clinton narrowly won Nevada in 2016, and Republicans saw an opening to expand their electoral map.

The pandemic has pummeled Nevada's tourism-dependent economy, especially, hampering Trump's ability to make inroads in the state.

Nevada is also home to a large Hispanic population, a voting bloc that typically leans Democratic.

The last Republican presidential candidate to win Nevada was George W. Bush in 2004.

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12:10 p.m.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris says she and President-elect Joe Biden have a lot of work to do. Harris made the comments in a tweet Saturday, shortly after Biden clinched the presidency by winning Pennsylvania.

She says, "This election is about so much more than Joe Biden or me. It's about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it. We have a lot of work ahead of us."

The California senator makes history with her election as vice president. She is the first woman, the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the office.

Noon

President-elect Joe Biden says it's time for America to "unite" and to "heal."

Biden said in a statement Saturday, "With the campaign over, it's time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation."

"We are the United States of America," he wrote. "And there's nothing we can't do, if we do it together."

Biden made no mention of his opponent, President Donald Trump, who has not conceded the race.

Biden clinched the White House with a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born. He will be the 46th president of the United States.

11:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump is not conceding to President-elect Joe Biden, promising unspecified legal challenges seeking to overturn the outcome of the race for the White House.

Trump said in a statement that "our campaign will start prosecuting our case in court to ensure election laws are fully upheld and the rightful winner is seated."

Trump was at his Virginia golf course when the presidential race was called for Biden on Saturday. Biden clinched his victory with a win in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born.

In recent weeks, Trump has alleged — without evidence — widespread fraud and misconduct in the election.

His comments have drawn bipartisan rebuke from election officials and lawmakers as dangerous attempts to undermine public confidence in the vote.

11:40 a.m.

People cheered and pumped their fists along the Wilmington, Delaware, waterfront as the news that the presidential race had been called for the state's former senator arrived on their cellphones.

The waterfront is just steps from the outdoor stage that Democrat Joe Biden erected on Election Day to celebrate victory.

On the water late Saturday morning, two men on a kayak yelled to a couple paddling by in the opposite direction, "Joe won! They called it!" as people on the shore whooped and hollered.

Biden's campaign had not yet scheduled a victory celebration, but he was expected to take the stage for a drive-in rally after dark.

During a speech late Friday night, Biden said he would be declared the winner very soon, adding, "I hope to be talking to you tomorrow."

11:25 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won Pennsylvania, surpassing the 270 electoral vote threshold to take the White House and become the 46th president of the United States.

Biden also carried Arizona, Wisconsin and Michigan on his path to the presidency, flipping states that President Donald Trump won in 2016.

Pennsylvania was a must-win state for Trump.

The 77-year-old Biden was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and sought to contrast his working-class

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roots with the affluent Trump's by casting the race as "Scranton versus Park Avenue."

Biden's victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed the processing of some ballots.

Trump is the first incumbent president to lose reelection since Republican George H.W. Bush in 1992.

10:45 a.m.

States are still counting votes in the presidential election, Democrat Joe Biden is on the verge of victory and President Donald Trump is at his Virginia golf club for the first time since the end of September.

Trump left the White House on Saturday morning and had on golf shoes, a windbreaker and a white hat.

The White House isn't immediately responding to questions about the president's possible golfing partners.

There were a few people with Biden flag banners outside the club entrance when Trump arrived.

Trump also has spent the morning tweeting about his unsubstantiated allegations of election fraud and illegal voting. Twitter hid four of the president's tweets behind a warning label that they may contain disputed or misleading statements about the election.

## **Biden defeats Trump for White House, says 'time to heal'**

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday and offered himself to the nation as a leader who "seeks not to divide, but to unify" a country gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.

"I sought this office to restore the soul of America," Biden said in a prime-time victory speech not far from his Delaware home, "and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home."

Biden crossed the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania. His victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed processing.

Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting. But Biden used his acceptance speech as an olive branch to those who did not vote for him, telling Trump voters that he understood their disappointment but adding, "Let's give each other a chance."

"It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, to lower the temperature, to see each other again, to listen to each other again, to make progress, we must stop treating our opponents as our enemy," he said. "We are not enemies. We are Americans."

Biden, 77, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. The strategy, as well as an appeal to Americans fatigued by Trump's disruptions and wanting a return to a more traditional presidency, proved effective and resulted in pivotal victories in Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Pennsylvania, onetime Democratic bastions that had flipped to Trump in 2016.

Biden's victory was a repudiation of Trump's divisive leadership and the president-elect now inherits a deeply polarized nation grappling with foundational questions of racial justice and economic fairness while in the grips of a virus that has killed more than 236,000 Americans and reshaped the norms of everyday life.

Kamala Harris made history as the first Black woman to become vice president, an achievement that comes as the U.S. faces a reckoning on racial justice. The California senator, who is also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government, four years after Trump defeated Hillary Clinton.

Harris introduced Biden at their evening victory celebration as "a president for all Americans" who would look to bridge a nation riven with partisanship and she nodded to the historic nature of her ascension to the vice presidency.

"Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they've never seen it before," Harris told Americans. "You chose hope and unity, decency, science and, yes, truth ... you ushered in a new day for America."

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After he spoke, the cars at the drive-in rally — a pandemic campaign invention — began to honk their horns and a fireworks display lit up the night sky. Biden was on track to win the national popular vote by more than 4 million, a margin that could grow as ballots continue to be counted.

Nonetheless, Trump was not giving up.

Departing from longstanding democratic tradition and signaling a potentially turbulent transfer of power, he issued a combative statement saying his campaign would take unspecified legal actions. And he followed up with a bombastic, all-caps tweet in which he falsely declared, "I WON THE ELECTION, GOT 71,000,000 LEGAL VOTES." Twitter immediately flagged it as misleading.

Trump has pointed to delays in processing the vote in some states to allege with no evidence that there was fraud and to argue that his rival was trying to seize power — an extraordinary charge by a sitting president trying to sow doubt about a bedrock democratic process.

Trump is the first incumbent president to lose reelection since Republican George H.W. Bush in 1992.

He was golfing at his Virginia country club when he lost the race. He stayed out for hours, stopping to congratulate a bride as he left, and his motorcade returned to the White House to a cacophony of shouts, taunts and unfriendly hand gestures.

In Wilmington, Delaware, near the stage that, until Saturday night, had stood empty since it was erected to celebrate on Election Night, people cheered and pumped their fists as the news that the presidential race had been called for the state's former senator arrived on their cellphones.

On the nearby water, two men in a kayak yelled to a couple paddling by in the opposite direction, "Joe won! They called it!" as people on the shore whooped and hollered. Harris, in workout gear, was shown on video speaking to Biden on the phone, exuberantly telling the president-elect "We did it!"

Across the country, there were parties and prayer. In New York City, spontaneous block parties broke out. People ran out of their buildings, banging on pots. They danced and high-fived with strangers amid honking horns. Among the loudest cheers were those for passing U.S. Postal Service trucks.

People streamed into Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, near where Trump had ordered the clearing of protesters in June, waving signs and taking cellphone pictures. In Lansing, Michigan, Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter demonstrators filled the Capitol steps. The lyrics to "Amazing Grace" began to echo through the crowd, and Trump supporters laid their hands on a counter protester, and prayed.

Americans showed deep interest in the presidential race. A record 103 million voted early this year, opting to avoid waiting in long lines at polling locations during a pandemic. With counting continuing in some states, Biden had already received more than 75 million votes, more than any presidential candidate before him.

Trump's refusal to concede has no legal implications. But it could add to the incoming administration's challenge of bringing the country together after a bitter election.

Throughout the campaign, Trump repeatedly refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, arguing without evidence that the election could be marred by fraud. The nation has a long history of presidential candidates peacefully accepting the outcome of elections, dating back to 1800, when John Adams conceded to his rival Thomas Jefferson.

It was Biden's native Pennsylvania that put him over the top, the state he invoked throughout the campaign to connect with working class voters. He also won Nevada on Saturday pushing his total to 290 Electoral College votes.

Biden received congratulations from dozens of world leaders, and his former boss, President Barack Obama, saluted him in a statement, declaring the nation was "fortunate that Joe's got what it takes to be President and already carries himself that way."

Republicans on Capitol Hill were giving Trump and his campaign space to consider all their legal options. It was a precarious balance for Trump's allies as they try to be supportive of the president -- and avoid risking further fallout -- but face the reality of the vote count.

On Saturday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had not yet made any public statements -- either congratulating Biden or joining Trump's complaints. But retiring GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who is close to McConnell, said, "After counting every valid vote and allowing courts to resolve disputes, it is important to respect and promptly accept the result."

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More than 237,000 Americans have died during the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 10 million have been infected and millions of jobs have been lost. The final days of the campaign played out against a surge in confirmed cases in nearly every state, including battlegrounds such as Wisconsin that swung to Biden.

The pandemic will soon be Biden's to tame, and he campaigned pledging a big government response, akin to what Franklin D. Roosevelt oversaw with the New Deal during the Depression of the 1930s. He announced that, as his transition kicks into high gear, he would on Monday appoint his own coronavirus task force.

But Senate Republicans fought back several Democratic challengers and looked to retain a fragile majority that could serve as a check on some of Biden's ambitions.

The 2020 campaign was a referendum on Trump's handling of the pandemic, which has shuttered schools across the nation, disrupted businesses and raised questions about the feasibility of family gatherings heading into the holidays.

The fast spread of the coronavirus transformed political rallies from standard campaign fare to gatherings that were potential public health emergencies. It also contributed to an unprecedented shift to voting early and by mail and prompted Biden to dramatically scale back his travel and events to comply with restrictions. The president defied calls for caution and ultimately contracted the disease himself.

Trump was saddled throughout the year by negative assessments from the public of his handling of the pandemic. There was another COVID-19 outbreak in the White House this week, which sickened his chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Biden also drew a sharp contrast to Trump through a summer of unrest over the police killings of Black Americans including Breonna Taylor in Kentucky and George Floyd in Minneapolis. Their deaths sparked the largest racial protest movement since the civil rights era. Biden responded by acknowledging the racism that pervades American life, while Trump emphasized his support of police and pivoted to a "law and order" message that resonated with his largely white base.

The third president to be impeached, though acquitted in the Senate, Trump will leave office having left an indelible imprint in a tenure defined by the shattering of White House norms and a day-to-day whirlwind of turnover, partisan divide and Twitter blasts.

Trump's team has filed a smattering of lawsuits in battleground states, some of which were immediately rebuffed by judges. His personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was holding a news conference in Philadelphia threatening more legal action when the race was called.

Biden, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and raised in Delaware, was one of the youngest candidates ever elected to the Senate. Before he took office, his wife and daughter were killed, and his two sons badly injured in a 1972 car crash.

Commuting every night on a train from Washington back to Wilmington, Biden fashioned an everyman political persona to go along with powerful Senate positions, including chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees. Some aspects of his record drew critical scrutiny from fellow Democrats, including his support for the 1994 crime bill, his vote for the 2003 Iraq War and his management of the Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court hearings.

Biden's 1988 presidential campaign was done in by plagiarism allegations, and his next bid in 2008 ended quietly. But later that year, he was tapped to be Barack Obama's running mate and he became an influential vice president, steering the administration's outreach to both Capitol Hill and Iraq.

While his reputation was burnished by his time in office and his deep friendship with Obama, Biden stood aside for Clinton and opted not to run in 2016 after his adult son Beau died of brain cancer the year before.

Trump's tenure pushed Biden to make one more run as he declared that "the very soul of the nation is at stake."

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Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Wilmington, Delaware and Jill Colvin and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

## Joe Biden: Stumbles, tragedies and, now, delayed triumph

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By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Days before he left the White House in 2017, President Barack Obama surprised Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, declaring his septuagenarian, white-haired lieutenant "the best vice president America's ever had," a "lion of American history."

The tribute marked the presumed end of a long public life that put Biden in the orbit of the Oval Office for 45 years — yet, through a combination of family and personal tragedy, his own political missteps and sheer bad timing, had never allowed him to sit behind the Resolute Desk himself.

It turns out the pinnacle would not elude Biden after all. His moment just hadn't yet arrived.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., 77, was elected Saturday as the 46th president of the United States, defeating President Donald Trump in an election that played out against the backdrop of a pandemic, its economic fallout and a national reckoning on racism. He becomes the oldest president-elect and brings with him a history-making vice president-elect in Kamala Harris, the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to win the nation's second-highest office.

There are no sure paths to a post held by only 44 men in more than two centuries, but Biden's is among the most unlikely — even for a man who had aspired to the job for more than three decades, twice running unsuccessfully as a sitting senator and passing on a third bid to try to succeed Obama four years ago.

The president-elect's allies, though, say it is that delayed, circuitous route that prepared him for 2020, when he could finally offer himself not just as another senator or governor with 10-point plans and outsized ambition. Instead, from his launch on April 25, 2019, Biden sold himself as the experienced, empathetic elder statesman particularly suited to defeat a "dangerous" and "divisive" president and then "restore the soul of the nation" in Trump's wake.

"A lot of people dismissed it," said Karen Finney, a top aide to nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016. "But when I saw his opening speech, talking about the fight for the soul of the country, I said, 'He gets it.' That's what a president does. A president looks around the country and understands what's happening."

Biden, she said, "met the moment."

His victory, though, did not come with the usual trappings. He did not bring along a clear Democratic Senate majority, and several Democratic House candidates lost, raising the prospect of a closely divided government likely to test his promise of bipartisanship. State legislatures also did not flip even as Biden was winning the popular vote by about 5 percentage points.

In his victory address Saturday in his adopted hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden acknowledge the tensions that surely will linger. But he urged Americans to "see each other again, listen to each other again" and "let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now."

Biden first joined a Democratic primary race shaped by nearly two dozen rivals -- most considerably younger -- already deep into an ideological fight over issues from universal health care to taxation of billionaires. Biden took an open lane, settling where he spent his 36 years in the Senate: a mainstream liberal with an establishment, deal-making core. But his visceral, emotional appeal transcended party identity.

When he warned that reelecting Trump "would forever alter the character" of America, Biden was drawing on life and political experience to tell his fellow Democrats they were having a premature debate. In his estimate, they were arguing over where the metaphorical train should go when, in fact, the train was -- and remains -- off the rails.

Biden was the presumed front-runner he hadn't been in 1987, when his first White House bid ended embarrassingly with a plagiarized speech; or in 2008, when he was trounced in the Iowa caucuses by Obama and others; or even in 2016, when the combination of his son Beau's death in 2015 and Obama's behind-the-scenes support for Clinton forced him to pass on the race.

Yet Biden was a wobbly 2020 favorite. He was well-regarded, even beloved as his party's "Uncle Joe," a loyal deputy to Obama, but he faced a river of criticism as too old, too moderate, too white, too wistful, too senatorial.

He was not the same figure who'd first gone to Iowa in the 1988 cycle as a young star in his party, a gifted orator whose booming speeches could fill a room while at the same time making a connection with the legacies of the Democratic coalition Franklin Roosevelt built.

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Though he eventually built out a policy agenda for an ambitious presidency, there was no signature proposal for a grand program like "Medicare for All." Biden emphasized more personal traits.

His empathy -- traced to a debilitating childhood stutter, a 1972 car crash that killed his first wife and infant daughter weeks after his election to the Senate, and then Beau's death as an adult -- wasn't something he could easily marshal on a crowded debate stage.

Recalling decades on Capitol Hill meant reminiscing about the days of a Senate that still included old Southern segregationists, and it invited scrutiny of his votes for criminal justice laws, trade and tax deals, and war resolutions that are anathema to younger Democrats.

Talking so much about his family played into Trump's efforts to sully Joe Biden and son Hunter as corrupt. Even Biden's umbrage about Trump's racist rhetoric highlighted that he was also a white establishment figure, vying to lead a party whose energy comes from women, Black and Latino voters and young people.

When the nominating process started, Biden lost badly in both Iowa and New Hampshire, inviting talk about how he might make a graceful exit from the race.

He found emphatic redemption, powered by Black voters so vital to any Democratic candidate, by winning the South Carolina primary and resetting the race in his favor. That victory sent a message to Democratic voters in key states that Biden could build a winning coalition.

"I endorsed Joe Biden as soon as he announced because I thought he was the only candidate who would ever win" battleground states, said Gwen Graham, a former Florida congresswoman and 2018 candidate for governor. Graham, whose father served with Biden in the Senate, cited the president-elect's "centrism and experience" as primary reasons, but added another trait she said was critical in the era of Trump.

"Joe Biden is just a fundamentally decent man," she said.

House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, the highest-ranking Black member of Congress and South Carolina's most influential Democrat, leaned on the same assessment when he made his seminal endorsement in February, days ahead of what would become Biden's first primary victory in 32 years of presidential campaigns.

"We know Joe," Clyburn said with emotion. "But most importantly, Joe knows us."

It's an open question whether the bond Biden formed first with Black voters and then with moderate white Democrats would have expanded into a general election victory if the COVID-19 pandemic -- and Trump's repeated dismissal of its economic and health threats -- hadn't come to dominate 2020. And it's certain the president-elect now faces a different challenge as he seeks to turn his November coalition into a governing alliance.

But it's not debatable that Biden's core pitch, rooted in his political and personal biography, was the same when he launched his campaign in the spring of 2019 as it was when he won the South Carolina primary in February 2020, as he closed out his campaign against Trump and when he addressed the nation Saturday night as president-elect.

Obama, awarding that rare civilian honor to a man he said in 2017 was headed to life as a private citizen, had one thing right: "He's nowhere close to finished."

## Trump defied gravity; now falls back to earth, future TBD

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump, who defied political gravity with his extraordinary rise from reality star and businessman to the presidency, has fallen back to earth.

In the end, his flurry of raucous rallies, an unprecedented turnout operation and sheer force of will could not overcome the reality of his enduring unpopularity and a raging pandemic that has killed more than 236,000 people in the U.S. and thrown millions out of work.

Yet Trump's acerbic brand of politics — his Twitter taunts, his vindictive drive to punish enemies, his go-it-alone approach to the world — made its mark across the far reaches of the government and beyond. And his better-than-expected election performance against Democrat Joe Biden suggests his impact is likely to resonate for generations in politics, governing and policy, even in defeat.



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It remains to be seen what Trump intends to do after his term ends on Jan. 20. Retreat to the golf course? Launch his own television network? Lay the groundwork to run again? And how fiercely will he try to contest his fate?

"I would absolutely expect the president to stay involved in politics. I would absolutely put him on the short list of people who are likely to run in 2024," Trump's former chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, said in an online interview with the Institute of International & European Affairs. "He doesn't like losing."

Trump retains the megaphone of his Twitter account, a far-reaching Fox News platform and the unflinching backing of his loyal base of supporters, who may never accept his defeat after he spent months insisting there was no way he could legitimately lose and even falsely claimed premature victory.

On Saturday, Trump declined to concede to President-elect Biden, instead promising unspecified legal challenges to try to overturn the outcome of the race.

Until a successor emerges to lead Republicans — likely not until the resolution of the 2024 Republican primary — Trump remains the de facto head of a party that he has reshaped in his image.

"Even in defeat, Donald Trump has exceeded expectations and helped other Republicans do the same," said GOP consultant Michael Steel, who has worked on Capitol Hill and for campaigns. "He will remain a powerful force within the party."

Still, Trump's loss is likely to spark a reckoning over how much of Trumpism the party should embrace going forward, especially given that Republicans could retain control of the Senate and won additional seats in the House.

Had Biden won in a blowout, that would have put "wind at the back of a lot of Republicans who said character counts and the Republican Party should never put its faith into someone who pushed boundaries liked Donald Trump," said former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, who served under former President George W. Bush.

But because it was closer, he predicted the party would likely "continue to be wracked with a split between insiders and outsiders, between the establishment and the Trump supporters who fault the establishment. And the soon-to-be former president's role will be a huge question mark because if he decides to stay active, despite the close loss, he remains powerful and effective, especially for Republicans."

In the meantime, it remains unclear whether Trump will accept the results of the election as he spends the next three months as a lame duck president.

Those who know him well say there is little chance he will go quietly into the night.

"When Donald Trump loses there will never be a peaceful transition to power," said Trump's longtime lawyer and fixer-turned-critic Michael Cohen. He predicted Trump would do everything in his power to claim the election was "stolen from him" by Democrats or other forces, just as Trump tried to sow discord as the votes were being counted.

Cohen said Trump was also likely aware that after losing the presidency he might "be served with a plethora of lawsuits, both federal and state." Trump is already facing lawsuits that accuse him of sexual assault and defamation, and his Trump Organization's finances are being investigated by New York's attorney general.

Barbara Res, a longtime Trump associate who recently wrote a book about her experience working with him, speculated the president might leave the country before Biden's inauguration and perhaps pursue his own media empire.

"He could put on whatever he wants. He could say whatever he wants. It's almost like having Twitter explode into everything else," she said.

Regardless of what he does, Douglas Brinkley, a professor of history at Rice University, said Trump would likely go down as "an aberration in U.S. political history."

"One-term presidents are rare. There's a great advantage to being an incumbent. And Trump squandered it," he said, arguing that Trump would likely be seen as "an insurgent figure," even though 25% of the American public "will always see Donald Trump as their Rambo and John Wayne figure combined."

As for the future for Republicans, Steel said the party would likely look to leaders who combine elements of Trump's populist agenda with policies that appeal to a broader swath of the electorate.

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"The challenge will be identifying the popular, durable, and practical parts of his agenda and marrying them to policies and arguments that appeal to the broader electorate that the party will need to win at the national level in the future," he said.

Under Trump, the Republican Party fully embraced the populist wave set in motion by the Tea Party rebels in earlier years, shifting its focus from free trade and trickle-down economics to trade wars and an isolationist foreign policy.

His rise broke open a new path to the presidency, driven more by force of personality than policy, that echoed even as he lost the Electoral College vote. His nativist message and stoking of "culture wars" proved the power of the politics of division and hastened a generational political realignment.

While he deepened his reach with white rural and working-class voters with his economic and racial grievance-stoking, he also turned off college-educated voters in the cities and suburbs with his sometimes crass rhetoric and endless tweets.

Still, many Republicans believed he would have won reelection had it not been for the coronavirus pandemic and a widespread belief among voters that he mishandled it.

Some top GOP leaders believe that while so-called "Never Trumpers" may celebrate the president's defeat, it is unlikely Republicans will be able to repudiate him completely, given how his stances on trade, immigration and foreign policy have resonated with voters and how close he came to clinching a second win.

It remains unclear, too, whether those who have flocked to the party because of Trump will remain engaged once he is no longer on the ticket.

The race for the 2024 Republican nomination has already quietly begun behind the scenes. A wide range of candidates are testing the waters, from moderates like Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, to firebrands like Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton and former Trump officials like ex-South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., has become a particular favorite with the president's loyal supporters on the campaign trail, meaning the Trump name could endure.

Fleischer said the party would likely be looking for someone with the blunt outspoken voice of an outsider who would at the same time refrain from going "so far that your tweets push people away that want to be for you."

Many of Trump's supporters see his influence continuing.

"We started something that is going to go on for generations," said Chris Haluck, 56, looking out over a crowd of thousands at a recent Trump rally in Pennsylvania that she'd attended with her 17-year-old daughter.

## **Elation and Anger: Catharsis in the streets as election ends**

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

As soon as the news buzzed on their phones, Americans gathered spontaneously on street corners and front lawns — honking their horns, banging pots and pans, starting impromptu dance parties — as a vitriolic election and exhausting four-day wait for results came to an end Saturday morning. And for all that joy, there was equal parts anger and mistrust on the other side.

Across the United States, the dramatic conclusion of the 2020 election was cathartic. Just after The Associated Press and other news organizations declared that former Vice President Joe Biden beat President Donald Trump, fireworks erupted in Atlanta. In Maine, a band playing at a farmers' market broke into the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

People waved Biden signs from car windows and balconies, and a massive pro-Biden crowd gathered in the streets outside the White House. In New York City, some stopped their cars wherever they happened to be, got out and danced in the streets. Car horns and bells echoed through neighborhoods across Puerto Rico. In Louisville, Kentucky, Biden supporters gathered on their lawns to toast with champagne. In Kansas City, they swayed in a park to the song "Celebration" by Kool & the Gang.

Trump's supporters have for days been protesting outside of ballot-counting operations, alleging without evidence that the slow-moving results were proof of cheating. "This isn't over! This isn't over! Fake news!"

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some shouted Saturday as about 1,000 gathered at the Georgia State Capitol after news organizations' decision to call the election.

But across America, it was mostly the Democrats taking to the streets in jubilant displays, celebrating what was to them an end to four years of constant crises, chaos and anxiety.

In New York City, some chanted "the nightmare is over."

"It's surreal, I feel like I'm free from the clutches of evil," said Lola Faleit, a 26-year-old human resources manager. "In 2016, we woke up crying. Today we are celebrating. Look, the sky is clear blue, the sun is out, Mother Nature is celebrating, too."

The nation paused, too, to reflect on electing its first woman vice president, Kamala Harris. Amid a celebration in Berkeley, California, where Harris spent much of her childhood, Mayor Jesse Arreguin said the liberal city's diversity and progressive values helped shape Harris into a "leader that stands for equality, empowerment and justice."

The news for some collided with the constant churn of crises the country has faced — the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 236,000 Americans, the economic recession that accompanied it, gun violence and police killings that have forced a national reckoning on racism.

"America can exhale. Decency, civility and democracy won," said Fred Guttenberg, who became an outspoken opponent of the president after his 14-year-old daughter Jaime was one of 17 slain by a gunman at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018. He had been sitting in front of his television since waking up Saturday, waiting for the news. He said it made him "ecstatic."

In Minneapolis, Ella Mitchell, 30, and Pardha Ponugoti, 29, visited the memorial at the street corner where George Floyd died.

Ponugoti said it was important to be at the Floyd memorial to mark Biden's win. "It's like a reminder of the problems that still exist in our society. Just because Biden is president doesn't mean that all these systemic issues are fixed."

For many, Nov. 7 at 11:25 a.m., became a moment of such historic magnitude that they say they will forever remember what they were doing, even those engaged in the most mundane weekend activities.

Retired teacher and school principal Kay Nicholas, 73, was vacuuming in her home northwest of Detroit when she heard Biden had been declared the winner.

"All I could say is 'thank God,'" she said, choking up. "It has nothing to do with Democrat or Republican. It has to do with decency. This country has got integrity and hopefully we can get decency. I think Joe Biden can do it and bring back kindness."

Biden's campaign manager, Jen O'Malley Dillon, learned the news when her mother called as she wrapped up a run.

Trump was playing golf.

In Atlanta, Kristin Felder, 36, found out while she was delivering a Panera food order for DoorDash.

"The lady I was delivering it to said 'Biden won!' And I said 'Oh my god!'" she recalled. She started crying, and she cancelled her next delivery to join an impromptu party gathering in midtown Atlanta, where people banged pots and pans, wept together, and toasted champagne.

Scott VanderWal, a farmer in Volga, South Dakota, said he heard the news as he was loading hay bales into his barn.

Unlike those celebrating in the streets, he said he was disappointed, but held out a glimmer of hope that Trump could still contest the results and find path to victory: "I wouldn't say it's totally over until all the legal avenues are exhausted," he said.

More than 100 pro-Trump demonstrators assembled outside Florida's state Capitol in Tallahassee Saturday afternoon. The crowd toted signs suggesting the election was fraudulent, and they chanted "stop the steal."

Dozens of the president's backers began gathering, too, from North Dakota to Georgia to the election tabulation center in downtown Phoenix, where counting remains underway.

Shortly after the news broke, Jake Angeli yelled, "This election has not been called!" Angeli, a regular at pro-Trump rallies who typically wears a wooly fur hat with horns, shouted. He remained hopeful: "Trump

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always looks like he's going to lose. And then he wins," he said.

Chris Marks from Traverse City, Michigan, also expressed distrust in how the votes were counted, suggesting all the votes should be recounted, or that the country should hold another election.

Trump has not conceded and has refused to promise a peaceful transfer of power, and many Americans remained anxious about what will happen in the days and weeks ahead.

But for Biden supporters at home and abroad, Saturday was a day to celebrate, dance and dream of a less contentious future.

Residents of Ballina, Ireland, Biden's ancestral hometown, had draped the streets in American flags and Biden-Harris banners for days as they awaited the results. Joe Blewitt, a heating and plumbing engineer and a cousin of Biden's, said the town was ecstatic.

"Now he'll be the President of the United States, they're delighted, they're absolutely delighted," Blewitt said. "To think one of their own is one of the most powerful men in the world."

In Egypt, a 49-year-old civil servant named Abdallah was playing backgammon with friends at a coffee shop in the capital, Cairo, when the television networks aired the news.

"The crazy man has gone," he shouted. "Trump of America was defeated."

And in Kenya, where presidential elections regularly come with fears about possible violence, activist and politician Boniface Mwangi tweeted that Trump's presidency should be a warning to the world: "It will take longer than Trump's lifetime for America to heal and recover from what happened this past four years."

Associated Press journalists Anita Snow in Phoenix; Jocelyn Noveck, Marjorie Miller, David Caruso, Tali Arbel, Christina Paciolla in New York City; Bill Barrow and R.J. Rico in Atlanta; Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco; Doug Glass in Minneapolis; Bobby Caina Calvin in Tallahassee, Florida; Corey Williams in Detroit; Mike Balsamo in Washington; Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Samy Magdy in Cairo; Danica Coto in Puerto Rico; Stephen Groves in Volga, South Dakota; Cara Anna in Nairobi, Kenya and Pan Pylas in Ballina, Ireland. Galofaro reported from Louisville, Kentucky.

## AP VoteCast: How did Biden do it? Wide coalition powered win

By JOSH BOAK and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden's White House victory was powered by a broad and racially diverse coalition of voters driven to the polls by fierce opposition to President Donald Trump and anxiety over a surging, deadly pandemic.

Both nationwide and in key battleground states across the Midwest and Sun Belt, the Democrat dominated with voters worried about the coronavirus and hungry for the federal government to do more to contain its spread, according to AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide. After four years of political turbulence under Trump, Biden handily won voters looking for a leader who could unify the country, and those pushing for racial justice. More saw him as empathetic and honest, and willing to stand up to extremism, compared with the Republican incumbent.

"It has to do with decency. This country has got integrity and hopefully we can get decency," said Kay Nicholas, a 73-year-old retired teacher and school principal from Brighton, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. "I think Joe Biden can do it and bring back kindness."

The election ultimately emerged as a contest between two conflicting visions of America in a time of crisis. Biden voters saw a nation in chaos and a void in presidential leadership, while Trump's supporters believed the economy was roaring back to health and that the president was delivering on the dramatic political change he campaign on four years ago.

"We love our president, we love our Constitution, we love everything that he's promised and followed through on," said Anastasia Theodoropoulos, a 50-year-old Trump supporter in Milford, Pennsylvania, a borough outside Scranton.

Biden's coalition included clear majorities of college graduates, women, urban and suburban voters, young people and Black Americans -- all groups that have risen up in resistance to the Trump presidency.

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He made good on his promise to win over moderate voters, including some Republicans who rejected the president.

Trump, meanwhile, held his base of white voters without a college degree, rural voters and religious conservatives. And in some competitive states, like Nevada and Florida, Trump ate away at Biden's support among Latinos, according to the survey.

The two coalitions reflected a striking racial division. Roughly 40% of Americans identify as racial minorities, but just 14% of Trump supporters do. Biden voters more closely reflected America — 63% of his supporters were white, and 37% were people of color.

"We are a force to be reckoned with," said Linda Wilson, a Black woman and Biden voter, of the mobilization of Black voters. "Let us pray that this is just the beginning."

Ultimately, Biden's coalition was large enough for the former vice president to seal a victory, although not the sort of overwhelming wave that Democrats hoped would secure a commanding majority in the Senate. Biden's win was locked in Saturday when a narrow victory in Pennsylvania handed him an Electoral College majority after he had cemented leads in battlegrounds Wisconsin and Michigan on Wednesday.

Trump refused to concede and threatened further legal action on ballot counting.

Biden flipped the industrial states by securing core Democratic groups. He won 55% of women nationwide. He was backed by 56% of voters under 45 and 90% of Black voters. Biden also led among moderate voters, with 61%. He outpaced Trump in the suburbs, 54% to 44%, and dominated with roughly two-thirds of voters in urban areas.

And while Trump won white voters overall, Biden ate away at his advantage among white women and young white voters. And in one sign of the growing education gap between the parties, Biden led by a narrow margin among white college graduates, while Trump dominated among white voters without a college degree.

This was a race about turning out decided supporters — about three-quarters said they knew all along which candidate they backed.

Still, both candidates undertook major efforts to turn out new voters, those who sat out in 2016 or cast ballots for minor-party candidates. AP VoteCast shows those voters ultimately favored Biden — about 60% of them nationwide cast ballots for the Democrat — and made up about 20% of all voters.

Nearly three-quarters of U.S. voters were white and 55% of them supported Trump. A solid 81% of white evangelical Christians backed him. Men leaned toward him over Biden, 52% to 46%. Trump won 60% of voters living in small towns and rural areas.

Eight months into a pandemic that has disproportionately hit Black and Latino Americans, Biden voters were more likely than Trump voters to say they'd been affected personally by the coronavirus pandemic. And Biden's campaign succeeded in making the election about the controversial president, as well as his leadership on the virus.

For Brittany Walker, a 29-year-old nurse in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the tipping point was when Trump himself contracted the virus. She cast her ballot for Biden.

"To see that Trump was saying that he had it ... and was wearing no masks; to me that's a very big deal," said Walker, who works on a hospital floor that cares for COVID patients. "How can you show us how to live if you're not really living it yourself?"

Biden's message on the virus also appears to have resonated in key battleground states, especially those that saw rising virus cases in the weeks leading up to Election Day. In Wisconsin, which saw an October spike in cases, 45% of voters said the pandemic was the top issue facing the country. They were more likely to say the pandemic is not at all under control, compared with voters nationwide.

Half of all voters said the coronavirus was not under control in the U.S., casting their ballots as a third wave of infections was adding to a death toll that has now surpassed 236,000. About 8 in 10 of these voters supported Biden.

Biden prevailed despite Trump being the preferred candidate to handle the economy, an issue that Trump's campaign tried to make a top selling point for his reelection. He repeatedly pushed back against

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public health restrictions that could curb economic growth and made inaccurate claims about the state of economy before the pandemic hit. Trump's voters believed the president. Roughly three-quarters of his voters said they thought economic conditions were good or excellent, although only about 4 in 10 voters overall agreed.

"We're living on our 401Ks and it's just been going up, up, up for the last four years," said Bill Roan, a retiree from Snellville, Georgia. "I'm just scared with Biden's tax plan and what's going to happen with it."

Throughout the campaign, Trump also sought to use racial tensions to shore up his support, particularly among suburban and older voters. He positioned himself as a defender of the police and portrayed the protesters calling for racial justice and police reform as radicals.

While the appeal showed some signs of resonating in small towns, it did little to sway the suburbs. When asked who could better address policing and justice issues, suburban voters — an increasingly racially diverse group — preferred Biden to Trump by a narrow margin.

In Kenosha, the Wisconsin city that saw violence after a police shooting of a Black man, Trump's rhetoric on policing and race was too divisive for some of his own supporters.

Steelworker Jason Beck voted for Trump four years ago because he "just felt that it was time for something different," he said. "And it was a big mistake."

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AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for Fox News, NPR, PBS NewsHour, Univision News, USA Today Network, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press. The survey of 110,485 voters was conducted for eight days, concluding as polls closed. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The survey combines a random sample of registered voters drawn from state voter files; self-identified registered voters using NORC's probability based Ameri-Speak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population; and self-identified registered voters selected from nonprobability online panels. The margin of sampling error for voters is estimated to be plus or minus 0.4 percentage points. Find more details about AP VoteCast's methodology at <https://ap.org/votecast>.

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Associated Press writers Corey Williams in Detroit; Jeff Amy in Tucker, Georgia; Ben Finley in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Juliet Linderman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Online:

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. presidential elections: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2020>

## **Biden looks to restore, expand Obama administration policies**

By The Associated Press undefined

Stop and reverse. Restore and expand.

Joe Biden is promising to take the country on a very different path from what it has seen over the past four years under President Donald Trump, on issues ranging from the coronavirus and health care to the environment, education and more.

The Democratic president-elect is promising to reverse Trump policy on things such as withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement and weakening protections against environmental pollution.

While Trump wants to kill the Affordable Care Act, Biden is proposing to expand "Obamacare" by adding a public option to cover more Americans.

Here's what we know about what a Biden presidency will look like.

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### ECONOMY, TAXES AND THE DEBT

Biden argues that the economy cannot fully recover until COVID-19 is contained.

For the long-term recovery, the former vice president is pitching sweeping federal action to avoid an extended recession and to address long-standing wealth inequality that disproportionately affects nonwhite Americans.

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He would cover the cost of some of his big ticket environmental and health insurance proposals by rolling back much of the 2017 GOP tax overhaul. He wants a corporate income tax rate of 28% — lower than before but higher than now — and broad income and payroll tax increases for individuals with more than \$400,000 of annual taxable income. All that would generate an estimated \$4 trillion or more over 10 years.

Biden also frames immigration as an economic matter. He wants to expand legal immigration slots and offer a citizenship path for about 11 million people who are in the country illegally but who, Biden notes, are already economic contributors as workers and consumers.

An analysis from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that Biden's campaign proposals would increase the national debt by about \$5.6 trillion over 10 years.

The national debt now stands at more than \$20 trillion.

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Biden draws some of his sharpest contrasts with Trump on the pandemic, arguing that the presidency and federal government exist for such crises. Unlike Trump, he doesn't believe the leading role in the virus response should belong to state governors, with the federal government in support.

Biden endorses generous federal spending to help businesses and individuals, along with state and local governments, deal with the financial cliffs of the pandemic slowdown. He's promised aggressive use of the Defense Production Act, the wartime law a president can use to direct manufacture of critical supplies. Trump has used that law on such things as ventilator production.

Biden promises to elevate the government's scientists and physicians to communicate a consistent message to the public, and he would have the United States rejoin the World Health Organization.

He has promised to use his transition period before taking office to convene meetings with every governor and ask them to impose what would be a nationwide mask mandate because the federal government doesn't have that power. Biden says he would go around holdouts by securing such rules from county and local officials — though enforcement of all such orders may be questionable.

## HEALTH CARE

The health care law known as "Obamacare" was a hallmark of the Obama administration, and Biden wants to build on that to provide coverage for all. He would create a "Medicare-like public option" to compete alongside private insurance markets for working-age Americans, while increasing premium subsidies that many people already use. Solid middle-class households would have access to subsidized health insurance.

Biden estimates his plan would cost about \$750 billion over 10 years. That positions Biden between Trump, who wants to scrap the 2010 health law, and progressives who want a government-run system to replace private insurance altogether. Biden sees his approach as the next step toward universal coverage and one he could get through Congress.

The Supreme Court, which now has a solid conservative majority, is scheduled to hear a case challenging the law on Tuesday. As president, Biden will have to deal with the fallout from that eventual decision.

On prescription drugs, Biden supports legislation allowing Medicare to negotiate prices for government programs as well as private payers. He would prohibit drug companies from raising prices faster than inflation for people covered by Medicare and other federal programs. He would also limit the initial prices for "specialty drugs" to treat serious illnesses, using what other countries pay as a yardstick.

Biden would put a limit on annual out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare enrollees, a change that Trump sought but was unable to get through Congress. Also similar to Trump, Biden would allow importation of prescription drugs, subject to safety checks.

## IMMIGRATION

Biden has called Trump's actions on immigration an "unrelenting assault" on American values and says he will "undo the damage" while continuing to maintain border enforcement.

Biden says he will immediately reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA,

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which allowed people brought to the U.S. illegally as children to remain as legal residents, and end the restrictions on asylum imposed by Trump.

He also said he will end the Trump administration's "public charge rule," which would deny visas or permanent residency to people who use public services such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing vouchers. Biden will support a 100-day freeze on all deportations while his administration studies ways to roll back Trump policies. But Biden will eventually restore an Obama-era policy of prioritizing the removal of immigrants who have come to the U.S. illegally and who have been convicted of crimes or pose a national security threat, as opposed to all immigrants who have come to the country illegally — Trump's approach. Biden has said he will halt all funding for construction of new walls along the U.S.-Mexico border.

## FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Biden supports a strategy of fighting extremist militants abroad with U.S. special forces and airstrikes instead of planeloads of U.S. troops. He wants to see the U.S. close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. He has backed some U.S. military interventions, including the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which he now says was a mistake, but he leans toward diplomacy and trying to achieve solutions through alliances and global institutions.

He is a strong supporter of NATO. He warns that Moscow is chipping away at the foundation of Western democracy by trying to weaken NATO, divide the European Union and undermine the U.S. electoral system. He also alleges that Russia is using Western financial institutions to launder billions of dollars to use to influence politicians.

Biden calls for increasing the Navy's presence in the Asia-Pacific and strengthening alliances with Japan, South Korea, Australia and Indonesia. He joins Trump in wanting to end the wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, but thinks the U.S. should keep a small force in place to counter terrorism.

He says Trump's decisions to exit bilateral and international treaties such as the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accord have led other nations to doubt Washington's word. Biden wants to invite all democratic nations to a summit to discuss how to fight corruption, thwart authoritarianism and support human rights.

Biden, who claims "ironclad" support for Israel, wants to curb annexation and has backed a two-state solution in the long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He says he will keep the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem after Trump moved it from Tel Aviv.

Biden criticizes Trump's diplomacy with Kim Jong Un, saying Trump's one-on-one diplomacy gave legitimacy to the North Korea leader and has not convinced Kim that he should give up his nuclear weapons.

## ENVIRONMENT

Biden is proposing a \$2 trillion push to slow global warming by throttling back the burning of fossil fuels, aiming to make the nation's power plants, vehicles, mass transport systems and buildings more fuel efficient and less dependent on oil, gas and coal.

Biden says his administration will ban new permits for oil and gas production on federal lands, although he says he does not support a fracking ban.

Biden's public health and environment platform also calls for reversing the Trump administration's slow-down of enforcement against polluters, which in several categories has fallen to the lowest point in decades. That includes establishing a climate and environmental justice division within the Justice Department.

Biden emphasizes environmental justice, which is about addressing the disproportionate harm to lower-income and minority communities from corporate polluters. Biden says he will support climate lawsuits targeting fossil fuel-related industries.

He said he will reverse Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate accord.

## EDUCATION

Education is a family affair for Biden. His wife, Jill, has taught in high school and community college, and she delivered her speech to the Democratic National Convention this year from her old classroom.



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Biden has proposed tripling the federal Title I program for low-income public schools, with a requirement that schools provide competitive pay and benefits to teachers. He wants to ban federal money for for-profit charter schools and to provide new dollars to public charters only if they show they can serve needy students. He opposes voucher programs, where public money is used to pay for private school education.

He has pledged to restore Obama-era policies that were rolled back by the Trump administration, including rules on campus sexual misconduct and a policy that aimed to cut federal money to for-profit colleges that left students with heavy debt and unable to find jobs to pay it back.

Biden supports legislation to make two years of community college free and to make public colleges free for families with incomes below \$125,000. His proposed student loan overhaul would not require repayment for people who make less than \$25,000 a year, and would limit payments to 5% of discretionary income for others.

He is proposing a \$70 billion increase in funding for historically Black colleges and universities, and other schools that serve underrepresented students.

## ABORTION

Biden supports abortion rights and has said he will nominate federal judges who would uphold Roe v. Wade.

He will rescind Trump's family planning rule, which has prompted many clinics to leave the federal Title X program that provides birth control and basic medical care for low-income women.

In a switch from his previous stance, Biden now says he supports "repeal" of the Hyde Amendment, opening the way for federal programs such as Medicaid to pay for abortions.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Biden has a Social Security plan that would expand benefits, raise taxes for upper-income people, and add some years of solvency.

He would revamp Social Security's annual cost-of-living adjustment by linking it to an inflation index that more closely reflects changes in costs for older people, particularly health care. That's been a priority for advocates. He would also increase minimum benefits for lower-income retirees, addressing financial hardship among the elderly.

Biden would raise Social Security taxes by applying the payroll tax to earnings above \$400,000 a year. The 12.4% tax, equally distributed among employees and employers, currently only applies to the first \$137,700 of a person's earnings. The tax increase would pay for Biden's proposed benefit expansions and also extend the life of the program's trust fund by five years, to 2040, according to the nonpartisan Urban Institute.

## GUNS

Biden led efforts as a senator to establish the background check system now in use when people buy guns from a federal licensed dealer. He also helped pass a 10-year ban on a group of semi-automatic guns, or "assault weapons," during the Clinton presidency.

Biden has promised to seek another ban on the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Owners would have to register existing assault weapons with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He also supports a program to purchase assault weapons.

Biden supports legislation restricting the number of firearms an individual may purchase per month to one and would require background checks for all guns sales with limited exceptions, such as gifts between family members.

Biden also supports legislation to prohibit all online sales of firearms, ammunition, kits and gun parts.

## VETERANS

Biden says he will work with Congress to improve health services for women, the military's fastest-growing subgroup, such as by placing at least one full-time women's primary care physician at each Department

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of Veterans Affairs medical center.

He promises to provide \$300 million to better understand the impact of traumatic brain injury and toxic exposures, hire more VA staff to cut down office wait times for vets at risk of suicide to zero as well as continue the efforts of the Obama-Biden administration to stem homelessness.

## TRADE

Like Trump, Biden accuses China of violating international trade rules, subsidizing its companies and stealing U.S. intellectual property. But he doesn't think Trump's tariffs have worked and wants to join with U.S. allies to form a bulwark against Beijing.

Biden has joined a growing bipartisan embrace of "fair trade" abroad — a twist on decades of "free trade" talk as Republican and Democratic administrations alike expanded international trade. Biden wants to juice U.S. manufacturing by directing \$400 billion of federal government purchases to domestic companies (part of that for buying pandemic supplies) over a four-year term.

He wants \$300 billion in new support for U.S. technology firms' research and development. Biden says the new domestic spending must come before he enters into any new international trade deals.

He pledges tough negotiations with China, the world's other economic superpower, on trade and intellectual property matters. China, like the U.S., is not yet a member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the multilateral trade agreement that Biden advocated for when he was vice president. As a senator, Biden voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement that the Trump administration renegotiated. The replacement went into effect on July 1.

Associated Press Writers Kevin Freking, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Ben Fox, Deb Riechmann, Collin Binkley and Hope Yen contributed to this report.

## What's next? Saturday's election verdict isn't last step

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saturday's election verdict isn't the last step in selecting an American president. Under a system that's been tweaked over two centuries, there is still a weeklong timeline during which the 538-member Electoral College picks the president.

A look at the key steps:

— When American citizens vote for a presidential candidate, they really are voting for electors in their state. Those electors in most cases are committed to support the voters' candidate of choice. The number of electors is equal to the number of electoral votes held by each state. State laws vary on how electors are selected but, generally, a slate of electors for each party's candidate is chosen at state party conventions or by a vote of a party's central committee.

— After Election Day, states count and certify the results of the popular vote. When completed, each governor is required by law to prepare "as soon as practicable" documents known as "Certificates of Ascertainment" of the vote. The certificates list the electors' names and the number of votes cast for the winner and loser. The certificate, carrying the seal of each state, is sent to the archivist of the United States.

— Dec. 8 is the deadline for resolving election disputes at the state level. All state recounts and court contests over presidential election results are to be completed by this date.

— Dec. 14: Electors vote by paper ballot in their respective states and the District of Columbia. Thirty-three states and D.C. have laws or party regulations requiring electors to vote the same way the popular vote goes in the state, and in some states, electors can even be replaced or subjected to penalties, according to the Congressional Research Service. The votes for president and vice president are counted and the electors sign six "Certificates of the Vote." The certificates, along with other official papers, are sent by registered mail to various officials, including the president of the Senate.

— Dec. 23: The certificates must be delivered to the designated officials. If they are not delivered, the law provides alternative avenues for getting the results to Washington.

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— Jan. 6, 2021: The House and Senate hold a joint session to count the electoral votes. If one ticket has received 270 or more electoral votes, the president of the Senate, currently Vice President Mike Pence, announces the results.

Members of Congress may object to returns from any state as they are announced. Objections must be made in writing by at least one member of the House and one in the Senate. If the objection meets certain requirements, each chamber meets separately to debate the objection for a maximum of two hours. Afterward, each chamber votes to accept or reject the objection. Back in joint session, the results of the respective votes are announced. Any objection to a state's electoral vote has to be approved by both houses in order for any contested votes to be excluded.

If neither presidential candidate wins at least 270 electoral votes, the House decides the election, based on the 12th Amendment to the Constitution. If required, the House would elect the president through a majority vote.

— Jan. 20: The president-elect is sworn into office on Inauguration Day.

## Trump faces tough road in getting Supreme Court to intervene

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has repeatedly said there's one place he wants to determine the outcome of the presidential election: the U.S. Supreme Court. But he may have a difficult time ever getting there.

The Associated Press called the presidential race for Joe Biden on Saturday morning. Trump, however, has over the last few days leaned in to the idea that the high court should get involved in the election as it did in 2000, and there were no signs Saturday he was ready to concede.

"Beginning Monday, our campaign will start prosecuting our case in court to ensure election laws are fully upheld and the rightful winner is seated," Trump said in a statement.

In 2000, the Supreme Court effectively settled the contested election for President George W. Bush in a 5-4 decision that split the court's liberals and conservatives. Today, six members of the court are conservatives, including three nominated by Trump. But this year's election seems to be shaping up very differently from 2000, when Florida's electoral votes delivered the presidency to Bush.

Then, Bush led in Florida and went to court to stop a recount. Trump has suggested a strategy that would focus on multiple states where the winning margins appear to be slim. But to overturn the election result, Trump would appear to have to persuade courts, including perhaps the Supreme Court to set aside votes in two or more states.

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is not likely to want the election to come down to himself and his colleagues. Roberts, who was not on the court for Bush v. Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, has often tried to distance the court from the political branches of government and the politics he thinks could hurt the court's reputation.

It's also not clear what legal issues might cause the justices to step in. Trump has made repeated, unsubstantiated claims of election fraud. On Saturday, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani pressed claims that so-called poll watchers, who observe as ballots are counted, were not allowed to get close enough to witness counting.

Still, Trump has focused on the high court. In the early morning hours following Election Day he said: "We'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court — we want all voting to stop." And on Thursday, as Biden inched closer to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, Trump again told Americans, "It's going to end up, perhaps, at the highest court in the land, we'll see." On Twitter too he urged, "U.S. Supreme Court should decide!"

There is currently one election case at the Supreme Court and it involves a Republican appeal to exclude ballots that arrived after Election Day in Pennsylvania. But whether or not those ballots ultimately are counted seems irrelevant.

Ballots received after 8 p.m. on Election Day were a small fragment of the total vote count. Across Penn-

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sylvania, counties reported receiving under 8,000 late mail-in ballots, though some were still assessing how many they had. Biden's lead over Trump by Saturday afternoon was more than 30,000 votes.

Still, Trump's campaign is trying to intervene in the case, an appeal of a decision by Pennsylvania's highest court to allow three extra days for the receipt and counting of mailed ballots. Because the case is ongoing, those ballots are being separated but counted.

Beyond the Pennsylvania case, if Trump wanted to use a lawsuit to challenge the election outcome in a state, he'd need to begin by bringing a case in a lower court.

So far, Trump's campaign and Republicans have mounted legal challenges in several states, but most are small-scale lawsuits that do not appear to affect many votes. On Thursday, the Trump campaign won an appellate ruling to get party and campaign observers closer to election workers who are processing mail-in ballots in Philadelphia. But judges in Georgia and Michigan quickly dismissed two other campaign lawsuits Thursday.

Biden's campaign, meanwhile, has called the existing lawsuits meritless, more political strategy than legal. Biden lawyer Bob Bauer on Thursday called the lawsuits "an opportunity for them to message falsely about what's taking place in the electoral process."

Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

## Books? Hairdressers? Europeans split on lockdown essentials

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

HALLE, Belgium (AP) — The concept of what is essential to keep a society functioning during coronavirus lockdowns is gripping Europe as the pandemic unleashes death, poverty, illness and isolation.

Beyond obvious candidates like food stores and pharmacies, some answers in the patchwork of nations and cultures that make up Europe can approach the surreal. An activity or item considered essential in one country can be off-limits across the border just a brief stroll down the road.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that while it might seem fairest to just shut everything down, "it's perhaps not the most practical" solution.

"If people are only satisfied when everything possible is shut down, then that's a view which naturally doesn't make economic sense," Merkel said.

That's why Germany is keeping car dealerships open this time, after their closure in the first, spring lockdown hurt the country's huge automobile industry.

In Belgium, of course, chocolate shops are staying open.

"Chocolate is very much an essential food around here," said chocolatier Marleen Van Volsem at the Praleen chocolaterie south of Brussels. "It has to be. Because chocolate makes you happy."

Happiness would seem no subject to split hairs about. Neither would safety as infection numbers are setting global records. A total of 600,000 confirmed daily cases were reported worldwide for the first time Friday after having reached 500,000 for the first time on Oct. 26.

Yet consider how differently Italy and Britain treat a service that gladdens many a heart. In the country that coined the term "bella figura" — the art of cutting a fine figure — hairdressers are deemed essential.

"Italians really care about their image and about wellness," said Charity Cheah, the Milan-based co-founder of TONI&GUY Italy. "Perhaps psychologically, the government may feel that going to a salon is a moment of release from stress and tension, a moment of self-care, that citizens need."

But across England people have had to scramble to get their hair done in the last days and hours while they still could, before new pandemic restrictions came into force on Thursday.

"The thought of another lockdown and being stuck at home — (people thought) I'm going to throw caution to the wind and I am just going to come in and have my hair done," said Richard Ward, managing director at the Richard Ward Hair and Metro Spa on London's swank Sloane Square.

And then there are life's finer pleasures.

In France, the love of books is unquestioned. No country has more Nobel Prize-winners in Literature,

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and a book review program on TV like Apostrophes used to be watched by millions every week. But walk the streets of Paris and you will find bookshops closed.

Sylvia Whitman, who runs the famed Shakespeare and Co. bookstore on the Left Bank, seethes at the prospect of giant online platforms gobbling up business while her shop is shuttered. Her sales have dropped 80% since the the spring lockdown.

"I find it really tiring that the bigger you are the more you can ignore laws, you can avoid taxes, you can find loopholes," she said. "The smaller you are, the more expensive and the more complicated things are."

Across the border in Belgium, books were deemed essential. Even then, Wouter Cajot, owner of the 't Stad Leest in the port of Antwerp finds it a mixed blessing. The lockdown has reduced passing shoppers to a trickle and he will have to decide whether heating and personnel costs make it worth his staying open.

But when essential goods cannot be bought in a store they can still be delivered.

"During the first lockdown we had to invent a website in three days and nights," said Cajot, and he got "new logistical equipment — a cargo bike," to the delight of his Antwerp clients who get books delivered within hours of placing their order. "So why order books at an international online giant when the corner bookstore can deliver same-day by bike?"

That's also become a question of government policy. With small shops often forced to suspend operations, and drifting closer to bankruptcy as a result, the door is wide open for supermarket chains and online giants to pounce. Several countries have taken steps to ensure supermarkets during lockdown cannot sell many products that provide the livelihood of closed shops.

It can get very complicated, with some supermarkets forced to tape off sections of their merchandise. In Belgium, Christmas decorations which took weeks to set up may now be hidden from view, since retail stores cannot sell them, as they are deemed non-essential.

"Books and magazines are allowed," said Harry Decraene, manager of a Carrefour department west of Brussels. "DVDs, CDs and games are not allowed. Sewing equipment is allowed, stationery is allowed, garden equipment can be sold. Pots and pans, toys and Christmas supplies are not allowed."

Just as toys would seem essential for children, petanque — France's traditional outdoors game that involves mostly elderly players tossing metal balls with leisurely accuracy — might be considered a must for the country's retirees.

There is nothing quite like the petanque grounds of the Provencal village of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, where the likes of actors Yves Montand and Lino Ventura would click their balls on the dirt. Now they're deserted, as the government opined that petanque is not essential.

"It's a leisure activity, we can do without it," said Sandrine Leonard, who manages the local tourism information center. Now that dead leaves provide the color the sun usually does, "it's more a period to stay quietly at home, to do some cooking. We spend less time outdoors. Hence the importance of having a good book."

But wait! Bookshops are closed.

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John Leicester and Oleg Cetinic contributed from Paris, Virginia Mayo from Antwerp, Belgium, Sam Pe-trequin from Brussels, Frank Jordans from Berlin, Colleen Barry from Milan.

Follow AP pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/virus-outbreak>

## **UAE announces relaxing of Islamic laws for personal freedoms**

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates announced on Saturday a major overhaul of the country's Islamic personal laws, allowing unmarried couples to cohabit, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalizing so-called "honor killings."

The broadening of personal freedoms reflects the changing profile of a country that has sought to bill itself as a Westernized destination for tourists, fortune-seekers and businesses despite its Islamic legal

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code that has previously triggered court cases against foreigners and outrage in their home countries.

The reforms aim to boost the country's economic and social standing and "consolidate the UAE's principles of tolerance," said state-run WAM news agency, which offered only minimal details in the surprise weekend announcement. The government decrees behind the changes were outlined extensively in state-linked newspaper The National, which did not cite its source.

The move follows a historic U.S.-brokered deal to normalize relations between the UAE and Israel, which is expected to bring an influx of Israeli tourists and investment. It also comes as skyscraper-studded Dubai gets ready to host the World Expo. The high-stakes event, expected to bring a flurry of commercial activity and some 25 million visitors to the country, was set for October but pushed back a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The changes, which The National said would take immediate effect, also reflect the efforts of the Emirates' rulers to keep pace with a rapidly changing society at home.

"I could not be happier for these new laws that are progressive and proactive," said Emirati filmmaker Abdallah Al Kaabi, whose art has tackled taboo topics like homosexual love and gender identity.

"2020 has been a tough and transformative year for the UAE," he added.

Changes include scrapping penalties for alcohol consumption, sales and possession for those 21 and over. Although liquor and beer is widely available in bars and clubs in the UAE's luxuriant coastal cities, individuals needed a government-issued license to purchase, transport or have alcohol in their homes. The new rule would allow Muslims who have been barred from obtaining licenses to drink alcoholic beverages freely.

Another amendment allows for "cohabitation of unmarried couples," which has long been a crime in the UAE. Authorities, especially in the more freewheeling financial hub of Dubai, often looked the other way when it came to foreigners, but the threat of punishment still lingered. Attempted suicide, forbidden in Islamic law, would also be decriminalized, The National reported.

In a move to better "protect women's rights," the government said it would get rid of laws defending "honor crimes," a widely criticized tribal custom in which a male relative may evade prosecution for assaulting a woman seen as dishonoring a family. The punishment for a crime committed to eradicate a woman's "shame," for promiscuity or disobeying religious and cultural strictures, will now be the same for any other kind of assault.

In a country where expatriates outnumber citizens nearly nine to one, the amendments will permit foreigners to avoid Islamic Shariah courts on issues like marriage, divorce and inheritance.

The announcement said nothing of other behavior deemed insulting to local customs that has landed foreigners in jail in the past, such as acts of homosexuality, cross-dressing and public displays of affection.

Traditional Islamic values remain strong in the federation of seven desert sheikhdoms. Even so, Annelle Sheline, a Middle East research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, wrote on Twitter that the drastic changes "can happen without too much popular resistance because the population of citizens, especially in the main cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, is so small."

The roughly 1 million Emiratis in the UAE, a hereditarily ruled country long criticized for its suppression of dissent, closely toe the government line. Political parties and labor unions remain illegal.

## Some veteran teachers skip wave of pandemic-era retirements

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press / Report for America

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) — At age 86, agriculture teacher Gerald Bonds, of Farmington, New Mexico, has seen plenty of crises during his career. He sees no reason to call it quits over the coronavirus pandemic.

Bonds is in his 58th year of teaching at Farmington High School and, like most teachers in his state, has been instructing his students remotely — an arrangement he despises.

"I hate it. I want to see the students face to face and talk to them," Bonds said in a video interview.

Confronted with the technology headaches of distance learning and the health risks, some teachers have retired early or taken leave from work. But many veteran instructors like Bonds are sticking it out.

New Mexico is tied with Maine for having the oldest teachers in the country, with one in four older than

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55, according to a 2018 National Center for Education Statistics survey of teachers and principals. And almost 6% of New Mexico's teachers and teaching assistants are 65 or older, according to data from the New Mexico Public Education Department.

With few exceptions, New Mexico's schools have been providing only distance learning, which so far has spared many teachers from having to consider the health risks that could come from being in classrooms with students.

"We are prioritizing health and safety. We have said that those teachers who do fall into those high-risk categories can ask for a low-contact or no-contact teaching assignment for this year," said New Mexico Education Secretary Ryan Stewart. "It's going to pose some pretty intense challenges in terms of staffing and being able to return (to in-person learning) in some districts."

Bonds said he has been adapting to distance learning, with the assistance of colleagues who help him file lesson plans online and set up video chats. But it has been difficult because teaching students about raising animals and growing plants is fundamentally hands-on.

"Let's get through this and get back to person-to-person classes. I think that's important because I think these young people are going through a lot of emotional things right now," Bonds said.

In southeastern New Mexico, Spanish teacher Manuel Acosta, 71, said video chats are just the latest tool in a long line from chalk to whiteboards to projectors to email.

He plans to teach remotely until the pandemic is over, even if some of his students at Hobbs High School start attending school in person.

Acosta was excused from in-person learning after getting a pacemaker in March. His 86-year-old mother, who lives separately, was also a factor. While a home health aide cares for her during the week, and Acosta has cut down his visits, he shops for her and visits every weekend. He still wants to teach, even if it can't be in person.

"I enjoy teaching; I enjoy the interaction with the students," said Acosta, who has spent 46 years serving students across half of the state's rural districts. "I don't know anything else."

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Attanasio is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues. Follow Attanasio on Twitter.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 8, the 313th day of 2020. There are 53 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 8, 2016, Republican Donald Trump was elected America's 45th president, defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton in an astonishing victory for a celebrity businessman and political novice. Republicans kept their majorities in the Senate and House.

On this date:

In 1793, the Louvre began admitting the public, even though the French museum had been officially open since August.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the USS San Jacinto intercepted a British mail steamer, the Trent, and detained a pair of Confederate diplomats who were enroute to Europe to seek support for the Southern cause. (Although the Trent Affair strained relations between the United States and Britain, the matter was quietly resolved with the release of the diplomats the following January.)

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln won re-election as he defeated Democratic challenger George B. McClellan.

In 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing power in Germany with a failed coup in Munich that came to be known as the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

In 1950, during the Korean War, the first jet-plane battle took place as U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown

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shot down a North Korean MiG-15.

In 1960, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy defeated Vice President Richard M. Nixon for the presidency.

In 1966, Edward W. Brooke, R-Mass., became the first Black candidate to be elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure allowing the merger of the American Football League and the National Football League.

In 1974, a federal judge in Cleveland dismissed charges against eight Ohio National Guardsmen accused of violating the civil rights of students who were killed or wounded in the 1970 Kent State shootings.

In 1987, 11 people were killed when an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded as crowds gathered in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, for a ceremony honoring Britain's war dead.

In 2000, a statewide recount began in Florida, which emerged as critical in deciding the winner of the 2000 presidential election. Earlier that day, Vice President Al Gore had telephoned Texas Gov. George W. Bush to concede, but called back about an hour later to retract his concession.

In 2002, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1441, aimed at forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm or face "serious consequences." President George W. Bush said the new resolution presented the Iraqi regime "with a final test."

In 2017, director Ridley Scott decided to cut Kevin Spacey out of the already-completed movie "All the Money in the World" because of the sexual misconduct allegations against Spacey and reshoot his many scenes using Christopher Plummer, just six weeks ahead of the film's release date.

Ten years ago: On the third and final day of his trip to India, President Barack Obama endorsed the country's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Former kidnap victim Elizabeth Smart took the stand in Salt Lake City on the first day of testimony in the trial of Brian David Mitchell, the man accused of abducting her in June 2002 when she was 14. Talk show host Conan O'Brien made his debut on TBS.

Five years ago: Myanmar's ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party lost by a landslide in a general election to the National League for Democracy of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. In his first public comments on the latest scandal rocking the Vatican, Pope Francis told followers in St. Peter's Square the theft of documents describing financial malfeasance inside the Holy See was a "crime" but pledged to continue reforms of its administration. An acoustic guitar that John Lennon used to record and write "Love Me Do," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and other hit songs sold for \$2.4 million at auction in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: Facebook said it was deleting the name of the person who'd been identified in conservative circles as the whistleblower who triggered an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. The death of a Hong Kong university student who fell from a parking garage during clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators fueled more outrage against authorities. Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who'd been imprisoned for corruption, was released after the country's Supreme Court ruled that a person could only be imprisoned after all appeals had been exhausted. U.S. health officials said they had a "very strong culprit" in the outbreak of vaping illnesses, finding that the same chemical compound -- vitamin E acetate -- was found in fluid taken from the lungs of 29 patients across the country.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Norman Lloyd is 106. Actor Alain Delon is 85. Singer-actor Bonnie Bramlett is 76. Singer Bonnie Raitt is 71. TV personality Mary Hart is 70. Former Playboy Enterprises chairman and chief executive Christie Hefner is 68. Actor Alfre Woodard is 68. Singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones is 66. Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro is 66. Rock musician Pearl Thompson (The Cure) is 63. Singer-actor Leif Garrett is 59. Chef and TV personality Gordon Ramsay is 54. Actor Courtney Thorne-Smith is 53. Actor Parker Posey is 52. Actor Roxana Zal is 51. Singer Diana King is 50. Actor Gonzalo Menendez is 49. Rock musician Scott Devendorf (The National) is 48. Actor Gretchen Mol is 48. ABC News anchor David Muir is 47. Actor Matthew Rhys is 46. Actor Tara Reid is 45. Country singer Bucky Covington is 43. Actor Dania Ramirez is 41. Actor Azura Skye is 39. Actor Chris Rankin is 37. TV personality Jack Osbourne is 35. Actor Jessica Lowndes is 32. R&B singer SZA is 31. New York Yankees outfielder and designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton is 31. Singer-actor Riker Lynch is 29. Country singer Lauren Alaina is 26. Actor Van Crosby (TV: "Splitting Up Together") is 18.