

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME It's time to fall backward! Turn your clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday

49ERS Must-win matchups for beating Seahawks Sports » B3

REPORT Turning away asylum seekers seen as flawed State » A3

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Santa Cruz Sentinel

Sunny; nice H: 79 L: 52 PAGE B8

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WATSONVILLE

PIRATE CHECKS HER CREW FOR FEVERS



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

With a parrot on her shoulder and attired as a pirate, Mount Madonna School Head of School Ann Goewert welcomes students to campus on the day before Halloween as they arrive for the school on Friday.

ELECTION 2020

Trump pitches 'normal'; Biden warns of tough days

By Zeke Miller, Alexandra Jaffe and Kevin Freking The Associated Press

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, MICH. » President Donald Trump dangled a promise to get a weary, fearful nation "back to normal" on Friday as he looked to campaign

past the political damage of the devastating pandemic. It was a tantalizingly rosy pitch in sharp contrast to Democratic rival Joe Biden, who pledged to level with America about tough days still ahead after Tuesday's election.

In a campaign that has been dominated by the CO-

VID-19 pandemic that has killed more than 227,000 Americans and staggered the economy, the candidates' clashing overtures stood as a reflection of their leadership styles and policy prescriptions for a suffering U.S.A.

Trump and Biden both spent Friday crisscrossing

the Midwest, the hardest-hit part of the nation in the latest surge of virus cases. Trump was in Michigan and Biden in Iowa before they both held events in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

With four days until the election and more than 83 million votes already

CAMPAIGN » PAGE 2

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Big Basin Water Co. struggles after fire

Residents who live off Highway 236 corridor are some of the last in region without access to clean tap water

By Hannah Hagemann hhagemann@santacruzsentinel.com

BOULDER CREEK » On a brisk fall morning in downtown Boulder Creek, residents dash in and out of shops, as the sun lifts above the horizon. The air is clear, but the impact of August's CZU Lightning Complex Fire lingers.

John Arrasjid fills two 5-gallon jugs from a water fill-up station at the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. It's become a semi-daily routine for him and hundreds of others who lost their drinking water as a result of the wildfire.

"We're on the edge of civilization, right by the park area, and it feels like you're not getting all the information," Arrasjid said. "We feel like we've been kind of orphaned by the government."

When wildfire rips through a community, water infrastructure also becomes at risk. If plastic pipes or tanks are melted, or even just heat up, or loose pressure, drinking water can become contaminated. In the case of Big Basin Water Co., the system lost water pressure and much of its infrastructure was destroyed. That triggered the State Water Resources Control Board and the Big Basin Water Co. to put a Do Not Drink, Do Not Boil water advisory into effect.

While the San Lorenzo Valley Water District lifted its advisory last week, Arrasjid and other residents who live off the Highway 236 corridor are some of the last in the Santa Cruz Mountains still without access to clean tap water nearly a month after residents were allowed to return to their homes.

The CZU fire, ignited by lightning on Aug. 16, burned more than 86,500 acres in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. In Santa Cruz alone, 911 home were destroyed in the blaze. One Santa Cruz County resident died.

BIG BASIN » PAGE 2

PANDEMIC

State leaders facing second wave resist aggressive steps to curb virus

By Adam Geller and David Pitt The Associated Press

DES MOINES, IOWA » Even as a long-feared second wave of coronavirus infections strains hospitals, officials in many hard-hit states are resisting taking stronger action to stop the spread, with public fatigue and political calculations running up against pleas from health experts.

Days before a presidential elec-

tion that has spotlighted President Donald Trump's scattershot response to the pandemic, new confirmed virus cases continue to spiral, passing the 9 million mark Friday and eclipsing previous caseload spikes that set off national alarms in the spring and summer. Infections were on the rise in 47 states.

During earlier outbreaks, first in the Northeast and then in Sun Belt states, many governors closed schools and businesses and

restricted public gatherings.

But the new surge, despite being far more widespread, has brought a decidedly more limited response in many states. Most are led by Republican governors backing a president who insists, falsely, that the country is getting the virus under control.

Over the past two weeks, more than 76,000 new virus cases have been reported daily in the U.S. on average, up from about 54,000 in

VIRUS » PAGE 2



Medical personnel don protective gear while attending to a patient not infected with COVID-19 at Bellevue Hospital in New York on Wednesday.

SETH WENIG — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRESIDENCY

If 2020 is like 2000, Trump hints of victory

Should a contested election end up in the U.S. Supreme Court, president may be able to count on the votes. PAGE A6



HOLIDAYS

Television special to replace Rose Parade

With 2021 parade canceled due to coronavirus pandemic, organizers plan two-hour TV special on New Year's. PAGE A4

BUSINESS

- Dow Jones 26,501.60 (-157.51)
S&P 500 3,269.96 (-40.15)
Nasdaq 10,911.59 (-274.00)

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TODAY IN HISTORY 1860

Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA, was born in Savannah, Ga.

1926

Magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

1941

Work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

1961

The body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

1968

President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

1998

A genetic study was released suggesting President Thomas Jefferson did in fact father at least one child by his slave Sally Hemings.

2005

President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

Birthdays

Actor Lee Grant is 95. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 90. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 89. Movie director Peter Jackson is 59. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 59. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 57. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 50. Actor Holly Taylor is 23. Actor Danielle Rose Russell is 21.

Star report

Carnegie Hall to remain closed through April 5

Carnegie Hall has extended its closure due to the pandemic through April 5. The decision leaves only the possibility of performances at the very tail end of the hall's 2020-21 season. Carnegie has been closed since March 12 and has canceled performances through Jan. 6. The venue has shifted some of its programming online. Among the events canceled were a planned night of the music of film composer John Williams, performances by the New York Pops and the Shanghai Chinese and Vienna orchestras. — The Associated Press

LOTTERY

THURSDAY'S WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon: 6, 7, 8

Daily 3 Evening: 6, 2, 3

Daily 4: 4, 1, 1, 6

Fantasy 5: 11, 13, 20, 23, 26

Daily Derby

1st: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd: 6, Whirl Win

3rd: 9, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:44.12

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Wednesday's drawing: 2, 7, 9, 14, 46

Mega Number: 19

Today's estimated jackpot: \$22 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday's drawing: 6, 13, 34, 46, 62

Mega Number: 1

Friday's estimated jackpot: \$118 million

POWERBALL

Wednesday's drawing: 11, 28, 37, 40, 53

Mega Number: 13

Today's estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Big Basin

FROM PAGE 1

The Big Basin Water Co., which serves around 500 households, suffered extensive damage in the fire.

"It's gone to the ground," said Jim Moore, the manager of Big Basin Water. "We lost our surface filter plants, all of our documentation, all of our computers. Basically me, my grandson and my boy are rebuilding all of it ourselves."

Benzene has been detected twice in Big Basin's drinking water at levels that exceed the state water board's maximum contaminant level of 1 part per billion. The levels are established to protect people's health over a period of many years because chemicals such as benzene have been linked to cancer and other disorders.

Stefan Cajina, the North Coastal section chief with the state water board's Division of Drinking Water, said he's not concerned about current benzene levels causing any immediate health impacts. "But still they indicate that there has been contamination in the system," Cajina said, "and that means there needs to be a complete, integrated effort to rehabilitate the system and to collect enough samples so we can be sure it's not going to be an ongoing problem."

Communication breakdown

After they were evacuated in August, lifetime Boulder Creek resident Michelle Matthews, her husband and 1-year-old son bounced around from hotels and to family and friends' homes for two months. They've been without clean drinking water not only for the last few weeks, but also when they were initially evacuated and staying with her mom in the San Lorenzo Valley.

"For people living here, it's just like another disaster," Matthews said. "Your house is here, so you feel like you can move in. But the struggle is real when you can't use the water and you don't get straight an-

swered... Information is coming through the grapevine."

Other Boulder Creek residents also told the Sentinel it's been challenging to get basic facts on what's happening with their tap water. There's been some posts on Big Basin Water's website, but they've been sporadic. Many updates have circulated through Nextdoor and Facebook.

For its part, Big Basin Water posted its Do Not Drink, Do Not Boil water notice online. It advises residents to also limit hot showers and baths, and to wash clothing in cold water. Moore said because the company kept paper records of its customers' information — which were lost in the fire — Big Basin Water was unable to directly notify residents of the restrictions.

For some residents dealing with multiple disasters at once, just getting a reliable internet connection has been a challenge. When Matthews came home nearly three weeks ago, some of her neighbors were unaware of the advisory and continued to use the tap water.

With a small child, she's taking every precaution she can. "I'll be the guinea pig, but I don't want my baby to have it (the water)," she said.

That means a new daily routine for the family. "We can't heat the water, so you have to use the bottled water to clean out his baby bottles and to fill them up — and then use the bottled water for him to bathe," Matthews said. "Even with



HANNAH HAGEMANN — THE SENTINEL

John Arrasjid, a Boulder Creek resident who still doesn't have access to clean tap water, fills up jugs at a water station in downtown Boulder Creek.

our garden, I was nervous. Is benzene going to come through my plants next year?"

Long-term impact

According to Moore, nearly 130 homes in the water company's jurisdiction were lost in the wildfire. It destroyed the company's office, and its surface water treatment plant, which before the fire supplied the bulk of drinking water to customers. The water company also lost at least 6,000 feet of polyvinyl chloride water pipes, a sewage treatment plant, and a water tank.

The surface water treatment plant filtered 150 gallons of water per minute, Moore said. As a result, Big Basin Water's only up-and-running water source is a singular well.

Before the fire, groundwater wells were used only if demand was high during the summer.

"That is hugely significant," Cajina said, "because they do have limited groundwater sources."

"We are concerned about the long-term adequacy of their water supply," Cajina said. "It's never ideal for a community water system to rely on a single source because what if something happens to that one well?"

Big Basin Water also supplies water to two neighboring systems, Bracken Brae and Forest Springs.

The state water board continues to work with Big Basin Water in an attempt to lift the advisory in areas where contamination is not present, Cajina said. But the

board has to gather extensive information on where fire damage occurred, and where the utility lost pressure. That means reviewing water samples, maps and other documents to get a full picture of how the water company works — and to determine if the water customers are getting from their taps is safe.

"To be honest, our level of confidence is not very high with what the system is telling us," Cajina said. "It's been really hard to put it all together. And it has taken an extraordinary amount of staff time to even get to the level of confidence we have now."

Multiple disasters hit at once

Moore said he, his son and grandson have been working on repairs and taking water samples, in addition to doing administrative work.

"The biggest challenge is my son and myself are out in the field, and we basically are out every day and every night seven days a week," Moore said. "The first 25 days my son was all alone up here because I had a surgery."

Moore's attention has also been focused on the immediate risk of another fire popping up and damaging more infrastructure. There's been six spot fires that have broken out in the Boulder Creek area in the last few weeks, he said.

But the biggest hold up, Moore said, is finances. He estimates that it will cost about \$1 million to rebuild the plant.

"We don't have any funding," Moore said. "Financially we're not making any money, because we couldn't charge for water."

Cajina said there are ways the company can get financial assistance in its recovery from the state government.

"These things can be dealt with financially. Administratively, that's another question," Cajina said. "I think even with those constraints, there may be help out there. But, you know, they have to invite that help."

Andrew Whelton, an associate professor and researcher in civil, environmental and ecologi-

cal engineering at Purdue University, said: "The very small water systems do not have the manpower, the financial resources or technical expertise to lift themselves out of a disaster of this scale. And with the chemical contamination aspect of wildfires it just compounds the complexity."

He worked as a technical expert advising water authorities after California's Camp Fire devastated Butte County. Whelton said he's concerned about Big Basin's lack of transparency.

Big Basin Water has posted the lab results from four separate water sampling events on its website, but the company had collected water samples on more than 20 occasions as of Thursday, Cajina said.

"The customers have a right to know what the damage is, where the contamination is, where it may be and what was found, before any changes in advisories or 'do not use' orders are implemented," Whelton said.

The water company, he said, needs to increase the number of drinking water tests.

"Where did that sample get taken? How long was the stagnation time? Did anyone go back and resample that location?" Whelton asked. And even still, without testing each household's plumbing, water contamination can't be ruled out, according to Whelton.

With the extensive level of damage Big Basin Water sustained, residents and experts alike question if the company can survive and how viable the water supply will be in the long term.

"You can't have a community without water," Whelton said.

Boulder Creek resident Arrasjid echoed Whelton, saying he was concerned about how much longer the San Lorenzo Valley Water District would keep its filling station open.

"We've just learned to live with loss of water, loss of power or loss of internet because it's mountain living," Arrasjid said. "But if they shut off this water, then it would be a huge problem, because where can we get water that's guaranteed tested to be clean?"

Campaign

FROM PAGE 1

cast, time is running out for Trump and Biden to change the contours of a race framed largely around the incumbent's handling of the pandemic. Biden is leading most national polls and has a narrow advantage in many of the critical battlegrounds that could decide the race.

Trump, billing himself as an optimist, says the nation has "turned the corner" from the outbreak that still kills about 1,000 Americans each day. He speaks hopefully of coming treatments and potential vaccines that have yet to receive approval. Biden dismisses Trump's talk as a siren song that can only prolong the virus, and pledges a nationwide focus on reinstating measures

meant to slow the spread of the disease.

"He said a long dark winter," Trump scoffed Friday at a rally in Michigan. "Oh that's great, that's wonderful. Just what our country needs is a long dark winter and a leader who talks about it."

Trump's rallies, which draw thousands of supporters, have served as representations of the sort of "reopening" he has been preaching. With spotty use of masks and a lack of social distancing, they flout state and local guidelines that he deems too onerous as he speaks as though the virus has largely disappeared. Trump and his aides speak openly about catering to the support of those "fed up" by state restrictions, and he has encouraged chants among his supporters calling for the imprisonment of local officials who have in-

stituted them.

Biden, for his part, referenced Trump's comments last summer that the virus "is what it is." He told supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, that "it is what it is because he is who he is! These guys are something else, man."

Trump's closing appeal to "Make America Great Again, Again" paints a halcyon image of the nation's condition during pre-coronavirus times that contrasts with Biden's charge to "Build Back Better." The president's focus on returning the nation's economy to the boom times of 2019 resonates with some voters, but overlooks the divided and rancorous politics that swirled around impeachment and the persistent problems of inequality.

Friday marked the beginning of the critical final stretch before the election.

Virus

FROM PAGE 1

mid-October, according to Johns Hopkins University. Deaths, which usually lag case numbers and hospitalizations, are also rising, from about 700 to more than 800 a day.

The virus has now killed more than 229,000 Americans.

Nevertheless, many officials have resisted calls to enact measures like statewide mask mandates or stricter curbs on the size of gatherings, casting the response to the virus as a matter of individual decision-making.

"At the end of the day, personal responsibility is the only way. People will either choose or not choose to social distance, or choose to wear a mask or not," said Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, a Republican. "What we can do is to remind them is that personal responsibility can protect them."

Lee's state is among those without a blanket mask mandate despite a study released this week

showing that areas of Tennessee where people are not required to wear them are seeing the most hospitalizations.

In Iowa, where a record 606 coronavirus patients were hospitalized Friday, one health expert said officials there had been too quick to reopen, along with several neighboring states. "If we follow the course that the other Midwestern states like Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota have, we're going to have trouble keeping up," said Dr. Ravi Vemuri, an infectious disease specialist at Mercy-One hospitals.

Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds, who has rejected mask requirements and said Iowans must learn to live with the virus, continued this week to downplay efforts to contain it.

On Wednesday, Reynolds, who has made frequent campaign appearances for Trump and other candidates surrounded by crowds of maskless supporters, poked fun at Theresa Greenfield, a Democrat running in a tight Senate race, for suspending a campaign tour after a staff member

was exposed to someone who tested positive.

"Theresa didn't get very far on her RV tour, did she?" Reynolds said with a laugh. She went on to accuse Greenfield and other Democrats of "hiding in their basements."

The pandemic has put similar pressures on states with Democratic governors, but the politics have played out differently.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, has repeatedly tried to impose restrictions but been stymied by the Republican-controlled legislature. She is considering calling lawmakers into a special session to impose a statewide mask mandate.

In Wisconsin, where the virus has raged since September, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers pleaded with residents this week to shelter in place to slow the spread. Evers issued a formal stay-at-home order in March, but the state's conservative Supreme Court struck it down in May. He was subsequently sued over a mask mandate and limits on gatherings in bars and restaurants.

Trump's closing sprint includes four stops in Pennsylvania on Saturday and nearly a dozen events in the final 48 hours across states he carried in 2016.

Biden, after visiting Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota on Friday, will hit Mich-

igan on Saturday, where he'll hold a joint rally with former President Barack Obama.

After stopping in Green Bay on Friday, Trump will be back in Wisconsin on Monday for a visit to Kenosha.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Domestic Violence Awareness Month ends

October statistical drop in police reports contradicts the pandemic-era trend

By Jessica A. York
jyork@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » This October, the number of domestic violence calls reported to Santa Cruz County law enforcement agencies has been at its lowest in 14 years during the month of October — jarring with local anecdotal experience.

Local experts speaking to the Sentinel this week about the numbers were scratching their heads

over the apparent reporting drop to about an average of 12.4 calls a day, through Thursday, saying the statistic is far from what they have seen during the larger trend for the past seven months. The statistics, trending toward less than 400 by Saturday, have been tracked each October by the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office and its partners and published in the Sentinel and other news outlets for years, in recognition of National Domes-

tic Violence Awareness Month. Law enforcement calls averaged 13.5 a day last year and a recent high in 2016 of 16.4 a day.

Anecdotally, while the coronavirus pandemic has forced the community into lockdown, tensions ranging from fear and anxiety to financial instability and isolation have surged. Santa Cruz County Assistant District Attorney Abel Hung, one of four prosecutors assigned to domestic violence in his office, said in an interview that he was surprised to hear October's calls were at a low, based on his experience and that of colleagues in neighboring counties. Unlike other law en-

forcement calls, such as vehicle thefts and burglaries, domestic violence cases have only seemed to increase during the pandemic, often including repeat arrests since March.

"I can tell you that since the pandemic hit, it appears that our cases and the calls for service — at least what we can tell, from all the different agencies, has increased significantly," Hung said. "I know it's just for October and I can't explain that, but those numbers don't seem to reflect what is the experience of us on the ground."

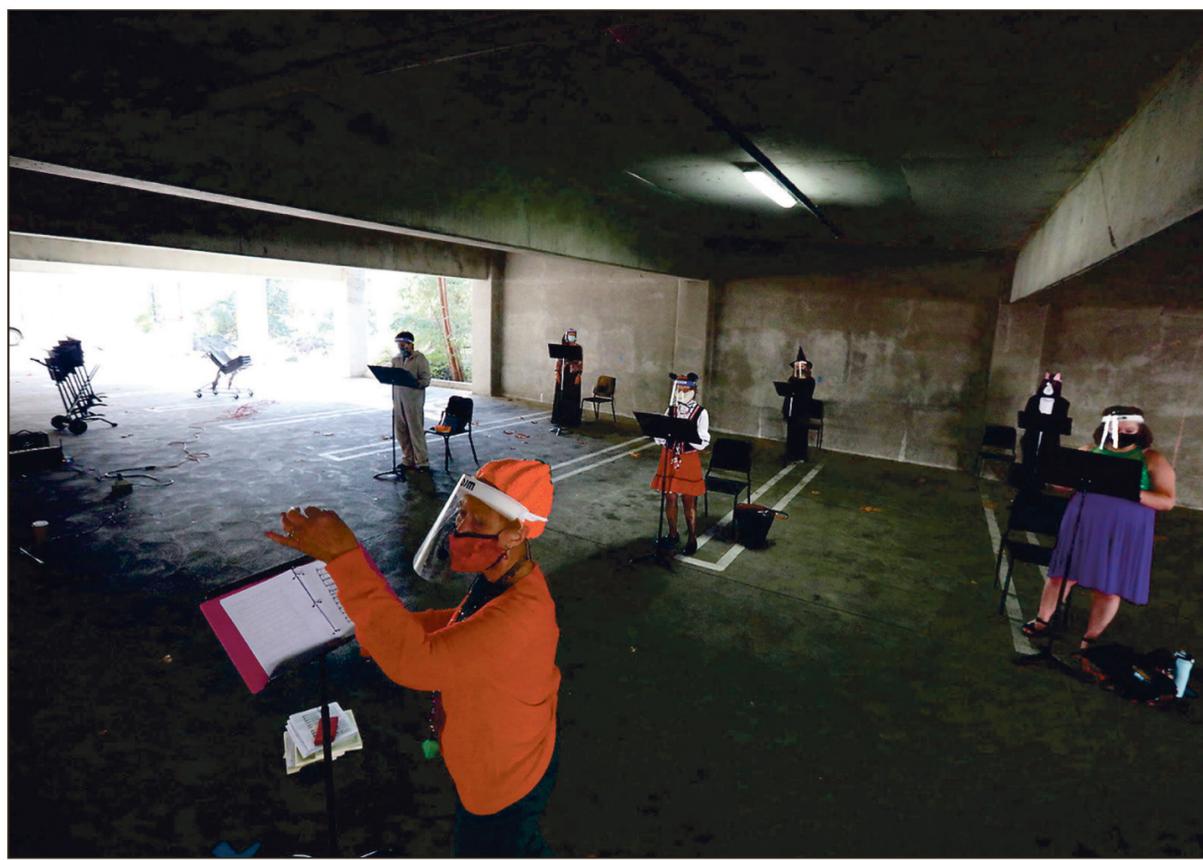
A 54-year-old Soquel woman, whose name the Sentinel is with-

holding for her protection, said she found herself homeless and temporarily facing her own domestic violence charge in May after violence and a subsequent blow-up she attributed directly to conditions resulting from COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. Tension began to grow between the woman and her partner of more than four years, she said, until her boyfriend recorded her slapping his phone away during an argument and called police, obtained a move-out order issued against her and left her homeless during the pandemic. Prior to that, she said, he had thrown

VIOLENCE » PAGE 4

APTOS

MORE THAN A GARAGE BAND



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Cheryl Anderson conducts the Cabrillo Chorale as it rehearses wearing its finest Halloween costumes in Parking Garage A at Cabrillo College on Friday. Taking COVID safety precautions, and led under the direction of Anderson, Cabrillo's Contiamo Chamber Choir, symphonic choir and the chorale all rehearse in groups of 18 or less, wearing face shields and in the parking garage. The Cabrillo Chorale is a non-audition chorus open to the public featuring all levels of singers.

PANDEMIC

San Francisco halts reopenings as virus cases rise

By Juliet Williams and Don Thompson
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO » San Francisco will temporarily halt the reopening of additional activities and businesses planned for next week because of an increase in coronavirus case rates and hospitalizations, the city's mayor and health director said Friday.

That includes expanding capacity for indoor dining at restaurants, and at places of worship and museums among other businesses, as cases increase not just in San Francisco but also in California and nationally, said Mayor London Breed and Director of Public Health Dr. Grant Colfax.

Breed said San Francisco, which has taken a far more conservative approach to reopening than many parts of California and the United States, has been "a model for the world" but now will continue its cautious



JEFF CHIU — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Visitors set up inside circles designed to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus by encouraging social distancing at Dolores Park in San Francisco on May 24.

approach.

"We are the second densest city in the United States. We should be proud. But we know that there's still more work to do," she said.

San Francisco's case rate has gone from 3 people per 100,000 to 4 people per 100,000 in the last two weeks in San Francisco, Colfax said, a 25% increase.

"We are still in the midst of a

pandemic," Breed said. "We are tired of COVID-19 but COVID-19 isn't tired of us."

The majority of activities and businesses that were set to reopen or expand their capacity will now pause, they said. That includes delaying openings of indoor pools, bowling alleys, and locker rooms at fitness centers.

But what's open now can continue operating, and lower-risk activities will continue to open on Tuesday as planned. That includes indoor dining at museums up to 25% capacity and expanded film productions with safety steps in place. Schools will continue to reopen. Officials said more than 75 schools have been approved to reopen and "a handful of high schools" are set to begin in-person classes in the next week.

Restaurants are disappointed they can't jump to indoor dining at 50% capacity, Golden

REOPEN » PAGE 5

IMMIGRATION REPORT

Turning away asylum seekers seen as flawed

By Elliot Spagat
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO » The head of the Department of Homeland Security ordered border agents to stop asylum-seekers from stepping on U.S. soil at official crossings with Mexico in 2018, undercutting public statements at the time that they were welcome to do so, according to a government watchdog report published Friday.

The DHS inspector general also found those trying to seek asylum at four official crossings were removed to Mexico before having a chance to seek protection from persecution back home, contrary to U.S. immigration law. The internal watchdog said U.S. Customs and Border Protection had unused detention space at two crossings that could have been used to process asylum-seekers.

ASYLUM » PAGE 5

SANTA CRUZ

County secures \$750K in consumer protection case

By Jessica A. York
jyork@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » Internet background check service CheckPeople LLC has agreed to a \$700,000 settlement agreement with the district attorney after allegedly violating consumer protection laws.

At the heart of the case was an allegation that the company, principally doing business in Orlando, Florida, was unclear with consumers about its online subscriptions and other automatic recurring charges. Such issues have proliferated in recent years across the country, with some automatic renewals coming after "free trials" unless the consumer cancels, first. Federal and state law requires businesses to make these automatic renewals clear to consumers and to get their "express, affirmative consent" before collecting any money.

"Automatic renewal is one of the areas in consumer protection in which companies take advantage of consumers' credit cards and bank accounts without their knowledge," Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell

CONSUMERS » PAGE 5

Happy Halloween

Have a Fun & Festive Halloween While Staying Safe



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SANTA CRUZ

Dredging operations to begin Monday

Entrance channel dredging will begin Monday, according to a release from the Santa Cruz Port District. The typical dredge schedule is Monday to Thursday, with maintenance performed Fridays as per the release.

The crew will begin digging mid-channel along the western side and work their way out to the west jetty tip later in the week.

Prior to transit, check tide and weather conditions, view the entrance sounding at santacruzharbor.org and know what your vessel draws. Entrance soundings will be updated bi-weekly or more frequently as needed and posted on the district's website.

During dredging operations, pass Twin Lakes on the east side (Crow's Nest side) of the channel unless otherwise marked. Vessels should stay at least 50 feet from the dredge. Contact the dredge crew for passing instructions on VHF channel 8.

SALINAS

Santa Cruz foundation receives grant

Rep. Jimmy Panetta on Friday announced a \$318,300 federal grant for the California Certified Organic Farmer Foundation in Santa Cruz. The foundation will use the U.S. Department of Agriculture-awarded grant to lead a multistate initiative to support organic food processors through food safety compliance training and education.

"When Congress passed the Food Safety Modernization Act in 2011, it unintentionally left some of our small and midscale organic processors without the resources to live up to the standards of this law," said Panetta in a prepared release.

With this federal funding, the foundation will help create a culture of informed food-safety decision-making, consistent compliance, and a more complete understanding of the Food Safety Modernization Act in California, Washington and Oregon's small and midscale organic food processor communities.

Send us your Coast Lines

If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays. To view previous Coast Lines items, visit SantaCruzSentinel.com/tag/coast-lines.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Livestream

- Aptos United Methodist Church shares worship on Zoom at 10 a.m. each Sunday. To find the link go to Aptosumc.org and click on the Zoom link.
- Boulder Creek Church posts Sunday worship on Zoom, at 10 a.m. each Sunday. To find the link, visit BCUMC.com.
- Calvary Episcopal Church is offering livestreaming services at 10:30 a.m. Sundays as well as Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m. Thursdays and Zoom Bible Study at 11 a.m. Tuesdays. Visit: Calvarysantacruz.org.
- The Center for Spiritual Living Santa Cruz is streaming weekly Sunday services live at 10:30 a.m. on both its Facebook page and YouTube channel. Visit Live Stream | [cslsantacruz](https://www.youtube.com/user/centerforspiritualliving) and join online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/centerforspiritualliving>.
- Chadeish Yameinu Jewish Renewal of Santa Cruz offers livestreaming Erev Shabbat and Shabbat services. Details: cysantacruz.com.
- Congregational Church of Soquel hosts worship services online 9:30 Sunday mornings. Zoom fellowship begins at 10:15 a.m. Visit cssoquel.org or follow on Facebook.
- Corralitos Community Church offers its ChurchAtHome and Kids Clubhouse children's videos online each week. Visit: corralitos.church. Contact hello@corralitos.church for more details.
- Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Aptos, 10:30 a.m. Sundays, www.st-john-aptos.org.
- Gateway Bible Church of Scotts Valley, 9 a.m. Sundays worship service and Children's Worship Experience, GatewayBible.org.
- High Street Community Church is streaming weekly services on its Facebook page and YouTube channel. Visit Hscchurch.org and join online at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at www.facebook.com/850highstreet/live or www.youtube.com/channel/UCO5x-Mo-6jPO396JXTn2SV-A/live.
- La Selva Beach Community Church Services via Zoom. Contact for invite: <https://www.lsbcc.org> or call 831-688-4033.
- Ocean Gate Zen Center is offering live streaming meditation and dharma talks. Visit: oceangatezen.org.
- Peace United Church of Christ is offering virtual worship at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us>. The meeting ID is 867 2930 9301. Password is peace.
- Shrine of St. Joseph in Santa Cruz will livestream Masses daily at 11 a.m. www.shrinestjoseph.com.
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ben Lomond is having Sunday worship and Wednesday Bible Study online. Email starector@sbcglobal.net for an invitation to view on zoom.
- St. Stephen's Lutheran Church is offering recorded services each Sunday, available at worshippers' convenience. Visit: ststephenslutheran.org.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Cruz offers an online video service each week. Services can be found on the website: <https://www.trinitypressc.org/news-and-events>.
- Twin Lakes Church in Aptos will move its worship services to livestream. Details: tlc.org.
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County is offering livestreaming services: Children's service at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. Visit: uufsc.org.
- United Methodist Church of Santa Cruz holds a worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sundays on Zoom. umc-santacruz.org.
- Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz will livestream services from its website, <http://www.vintagechurch.org/>, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays.
- Watsonville Buddhist Temple is live streaming Sunday Services at 10 a.m. and/or offering recorded Dharma talks. Visit www.wbtemple.org for YouTube link and information.
- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Aptos is live streaming Sunday services via Zoom. Visit aptospresbyterianchurch.org or call 831-688-4211 for information.

Domestic violence calls

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each day, the Sentinel will document the domestic violence calls in Santa Cruz County received by emergency dispatchers.

Figures are compiled by the District Attorney's Office and include reports of domestic violence, restraining-order violations and other domestic disputes.

The 24-hour domestic violence hotline is 888-900-4232. Calls for Thursday: 9. Total for month: 361.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Ex-fugitive gets life for kidnappings, torture

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA » A former pot grower and jail escapee convicted in the kidnapping and torture of a marijuana dispensary owner in Southern California eight years ago was sentenced Friday to life in prison.

Hossein Nayeri was ordered to serve two consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole, one for each kidnapping charge, the Orange County Register reported. Superior Court Judge Gregg L. Prickett also sentenced Nayeri to a third consecutive term of seven years to life for the

torture charge.

A jury last year found Nayeri guilty for the 2012 abduction he carried out with the help of two friends in a plot to locate \$1 million they believed the dispensary owner had buried in the Mojave desert. No money was ever found.

The three broke into a Newport Beach home and tied up the dispensary owner, along with the girlfriend of the man who owned the house, and forced them into a van.

During a drive into the desert, the men tortured the dispensary owner with

rubber piping, a stun gun and a blow torch, demanding he give them the \$1 million and ignoring his pleas that he didn't have the money.

When they arrived in the desert, the kidnappers cut off the dispensary owner's penis. They left him and the woman, still bound, behind and drove off.

The woman and dispensary owner survived, though authorities were unable to recover his missing body part.

Investigators ultimately identified Nayeri and Kyle Handley and Ryan Kevorkian as the main suspects.

Naomi Rhodus, Kevorkian's estranged wife, was accused of purchasing the weapons used in the kidnapping and helping to rent the van.

Nayeri fled to Iran but was ultimately arrested. While awaiting trial, Nayeri teamed up with two other inmates to lead a daring escape from Orange County jail, spending a little more than a week on the run before being recaptured.

Handley, the first to go to trial, was convicted and sentenced to four life terms in prison. Kevorkian and Rhodus await trial.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

TV special to replace canceled 2021 Rose Parade

The Associated Press

PASADENA » The 2021 Rose Parade is canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, but viewers will still get a show with a two-hour television special on New Year's Day, organizers said.

The Tournament of Roses Association said in a Thursday news release that the TV special will

include "live-to-tape musical and marching band performances, heartwarming segments related to the Rose Parade, celebrity guest appearances," and highlights from past Rose Bowl football games.

And of course there will be "spectacular floats from years past," as well as a behind-the-scenes look into the making of

flower-laden displays that are the trademark of the parade, the release said.

The Pasadena, California, association said in July that it was canceling the 132nd parade because of the risk of spreading COVID-19 infections among its huge audience and participants.

The Rose Bowl college football game that traditionally follows the parade

is still scheduled for New Year's Day.

Since its inception in 1891, the parade has only not occurred during the wartime years of 1942, 1943 and 1945, the association said.

Thousands of spectators normally jam the 5-mile parade route through Pasadena, some camping out overnight on sidewalks to ensure a good view.

Violence

FROM PAGE 3

her into a door, hit her in the face and backed his car into her.

"I lost four jobs and the man I lived with lost his mind," she said. "It was ridiculous. With cuts and bruises, I was arrested and held for 12 hours when nobody was being held in jail, because it was COVID. They kept saying, we don't know how he got this order."

Earlier stats show spike in calls

In September, nonprofit Monarch Services co-Executive Director Kalyne Foster Renda said that her organization, which provides shelter and 24-hour crisis hotline response to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, had seen its internal domestic violence call numbers increase by 40% since March. The organization's crisis shelter population spiked to 40% higher than it had seen in its history, and its crisis line calls climbed by 33%, she said. Foster Renda attributed some of that spike to evacuations during the CZU August Lightning Complex fires, which stretched more than a month and displaced at its height in early September more than 35,000 Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties' residents.

Foster Renda was sharing the statistics with the

Sentinel shortly after the launch of a confidential rape examination clinic at Dominican Hospital.

"I think, because of there being so many factors to COVID, loss of housing, with the wildfire, a lot of people having to evacuate, lose their house, it was a breaking point for folks and it was a transition for them to be able to come in the shelter and say 'I need help now,'" Foster Renda said at the time. "So, we've actually seen a huge, huge increase."

Foster Renda said she anticipated that current local domestic violence crisis calls would remain high for the foreseeable future, based on a similar surge during the Great Recession. She said she and other authorities were initially concerned that individuals and families experiencing domestic violence during the coronavirus lockdown would feel trapped, unable to reach out for help or to be around others who would support them in doing so, but the statistics have told a different story.

This week, Monarch Services Communication Director Delphine Burns said that the agency's crisis line calls had averaged around 500 domestic violence calls a month prior to the outbreak, a number that jumped to a new average of 733 in the seven months since.

Asked to make sense of the statistical anomaly of a significant drop in domestic violence calls to police during the month of

October, Burns said the reduction had not been mirrored in calls to Monarch. As of Oct. 27, the agency had received more than 700 crisis line calls related to domestic violence since Oct. 1, compared to an above-average count of nearly 800 calls in September, Burns said.

"There are plenty of survivors who are seeking our services preliminarily before actually going to law enforcement," Burns said. "That's sort of a bigger deal, or it can be. Not as much as sexual assault, but it's still one of the most under-reported crimes."

Increasing awareness

Jamee Leichte, who moved to Santa Cruz from Denver in January, is among members of the community working to bring awareness to domestic violence prevention. Recently, she decorated a batch of pumpkins in purple paint and glitter, selling them to community members downtown with plans to donate all proceeds to Monarch. Leichte said her older sister was the victim of domestic abuse and died at the hands of her husband.

"Why I'm so passionate about domestic violence is because I did lose my sister six years ago. I never thought that it was a reality. Domestic violence doesn't really discriminate and it exists in all communities," Leichte said. "So, when that tragedy sort of rocked my family, it made me realize how prevalent

the issue is and how informing people, providing psycho-education about it, was so needed and so important."

The Santa Cruz City Council recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Monarch Services with a city proclamation Tuesday. In part, the proclamation acknowledged that the pandemic "has left many survivors in homes that are unsafe and has fractured support networks that survivors may typically rely on to seek help or escape violence."

"Domestic violence has been reported more and has gone up during this time of isolation, so it's extremely important that we are recognizing that as part of sort of a 'pandemic within a pandemic' and that it's not safe at home for everyone," Burns said, addressing the City Council.

Monarch hosted a webinar, "Dynamics of Domestic Violence," on Wednesday morning, a recording of which is posted online on YouTube, to help the public identify domestic violence warning signs and offer ways to respond as both an ally and violence survivor. The seminar is available at youtu.be/ZNyK4zYA_J4.

Those in crisis can reach the National Domestic Violence hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local crisis line at 888-900-4232. For information on the purple pumpkins, email or send a message through Instagram @jameeleichte.

Contact reporter Jessica A. York at 831-706-3264.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

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Contact information during the Santa Cruz County Shelter in Place order.

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Consumers

FROM PAGE 3

was quoted in an agency press release. "Consumers always have the right to know they are going to be subject to continuous charges."

The Santa Cruz County District Attorney Consumer Affairs and Environmental Protection Units, working with the California Auto-Renewal Task Force, secured this week a settlement, which also includes an additional \$50,000 in restitution and an agreement for the com-

pany to change its website and sales practices to protect California consumers.

The CheckPeople LLC case, filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Oct. 29 is the latest in a series of negotiated consumer protection judgments for the county. The terms were negotiated by

the task force and a team of prosecutors from the District Attorney Offices of Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County, and the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

Contact reporter Jessica A. York at 831-706-3264.

Asylum

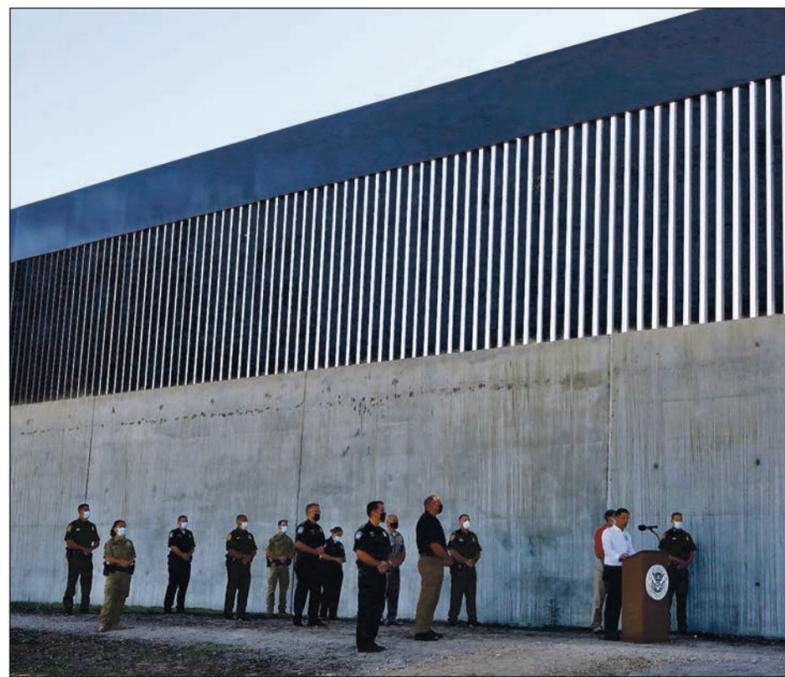
FROM PAGE 3

The 37-page report paints a picture starkly at odds with previous accounts of how the practice of making people wait in Mexico was introduced two years ago amid an unprecedented surge of people seeking asylum, many of them Central American families. U.S. authorities have said repeatedly that processing constraints were the sole reason for making people wait in Mexico.

The practice — one of many measures President Donald Trump has implemented to limit asylum — has been on hold since March, when the administration temporarily suspended asylum altogether, using the coronavirus to invoke special powers under a public health law.

Kirstjen Nielsen, who as DHS secretary in 2018 was dealing with a crisis over the administration's decision to separate families at the border, repeatedly urged asylum-seekers to go to ports of entry, instead of entering the country illegally between official crossings. At the time, CBP was turning away people at official crossings, though Nielsen disputed those reports.

Chad Wolf, her chief of staff and now acting secretary, acted on Nielsen's May 24, 2018, request to ask CBP how many asylum-seekers would likely be turned away each day if the agency limited processing at the border, a practice known as "metering." She was told that 650 people daily could be denied entry if 200 officers were as-



Acting Homeland Secretary Chad Wolf gives a speech in front of a new section of the border wall Thursday in McAllen, Texas.

signed to the task.

On June 5, Nielsen signed an order putting the plan in effect, the report says.

"(While) DHS leadership urged asylum seekers to present themselves at ports of entry, the agency took deliberate steps to limit the number of undocumented aliens would could be processed each day at Southwest Border land ports of entry," the report says.

Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment and a question on how to reach Nielsen, who was ousted last year in a broad purge of senior department officials. CBP referred the AP to its written responses in the report.

The inspector general

says that CBP, without public notice, stopped processing asylum-seekers at seven of 24 southern border crossings, all of them in the San Diego and Laredo, Texas, field offices. Officers at the Tecate, California, crossing questioned the legality of the order and refused to participate.

CBP, in its written response to recommendations, rejected the inspector general's proposal to resume processing at the seven crossings or publicly announce that it won't.

Agents at four border crossings — three in the San Diego field office and one in Nogales, Arizona — turned back asylum-seekers who were on U.S. soil but had not yet cleared inspection.

The inspector general said that practice was inconsistent with U.S. law and Homeland Security policy.

The inspector general also challenged CBP's claim that it reached its processing capacity, saying that visits to Arizona crossings in Nogales and San Luis showed otherwise. The San Luis port had the capacity to detain 48 people but was holding only five.

CBP said the inspector general's findings on capacity reflect "a fundamental misunderstanding." It said, for example, that it can't mix men with an unaccompanied child.

Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden calls metering a "disastrous policy" on his website.



NOAH BERGER — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A man passes a COVID-19 public service notice in San Francisco's financial district on Oct. 21.

Reopen

FROM PAGE 3

Gate Restaurant Association Executive Director Laurie Thomas said in a statement. But she said outdoor dining and indoor dining at 25% capacity will continue.

The group understands the delay is needed "to keep our city from facing the surges and backtracking of reopening that we are seeing across many parts of the country and internationally," she said.

Positive cases are increasing across California, but Gov. Gavin Newsom focused on the rate of positive tests, which he noted has reached 20% to 30% in some areas of the country as nearly half of states report record-high cases.

In California, the positivity rate is 3% over 14 days and 3.1% over seven days.

The most populous state is anticipating an increase with the holidays and more indoor activities, coupled with the start of the flu season, which Newsom used to tout the timing of this week's opening of a new \$25 million coronavirus testing laboratory.

On Friday he toured the lab that was set up in Valencia, in Los Angeles County, as part of an agreement worth up to \$1.4 billion with Massachusetts-based diagnostics company PerkinElmer.

"Why the federal government hasn't done this, why we haven't seen more scale and more leverage

... federally is beyond me," Newsom, a Democrat, said in a dig at the Republican Trump administration five days before the presidential election. He said California "is doing our part and we hope that will encourage others to do more still."

The laboratory will initially process about 40,000 tests a day but should reach its full capacity of 150,000 tests a day by March 2021 under the agreement, which was first announced in August.

California is already routinely conducting well over 100,000 tests a day, so the new laboratory will eventually more than double the state's testing capacity.

"This really is meant to be part of the backbone for testing in California," said Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's health and human services secretary.

The company is required to provide results in no more than two days to help health officials more quickly identify hotspots and trace the contacts of those who test positive.

The new lab will also bring down the cost of each test, to \$31 when it reaches capacity, Newsom said. By comparison, Medicare and Medicaid reimburse at about \$100 per test and the average cost of a test can range as high as \$200, which Newsom said is unsustainable.

The contract will initially cost the state \$100 million but could eventually climb to \$1.4 billion. It will employ up to 700 people.

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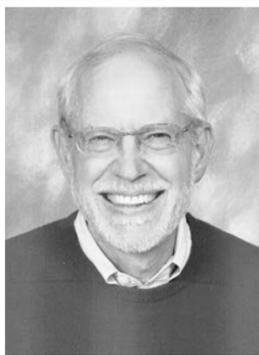
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Obituary Notices

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Robert "Bob" White
October 31, 1947 – October 10, 2020
Resident of Capitola

Bob White, age 72, passed away unexpectedly after a very brief illness.

Bob was born in Santa Monica, California to Robert L. White Sr. and Ruth L. Peterson. He was Assistant University Librarian at UCSC for 26 years where he was happily part of the teams that built the award winning Science and Engineering Library and the McHenry Library addition and renovation. He was currently volunteering his time and expertise for the new branch library in Capitola. He loved libraries and was so grateful to be part of three library building projects.

Bob did not learn how to read until the sixth grade. His mother's love and diligence and 2 years of a special summer school program enabled him to become a proficient reader. He would always say, "I could not read early on and now I work in a profession where I am surrounded by books."

Bob had a real commitment to public service. He was currently serving as Chair of the Santa Cruz County Library Advisory Commission and he represented Capitola as a member of the Library Joint Powers Authority. He was also serving on the Soquel Creek Water District Finance Committee. Bob was also an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Aptos.

Bob is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Bonda; his beloved Persian rescue cat, Mason; his brother, Thomas of Black Hills, South Dakota; his extended family of Angus and Susan MacMillan of Felton; and his three amazing Godchildren, Landis, Claire and Ian Ross MacMillan. He loved them so much and was immensely proud of them.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank or Housing Matters of Santa Cruz County. Sadly due to the current pandemic a private service will be held at a later date.



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Ann Seibert
May 24, 1927 - October 11, 2020
Sandy Utah

Ann Witherbee Seibert, aged 93, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 11, 2020, in Sandy, Utah. She was born on May 24, 1927, in Los Angeles, California.

Three words come to mind when describing Ann Seibert: kind, generous and patient. Throughout her life Ann showed compassion and a giving spirit, especially to those less fortunate than herself. Being the mother of three boys, she developed a keen sense of tolerance that extended to family, friends, and strangers.

Ann and her parents, Dr. Harold & Elizabeth Witherbee, and her brother, Harold ("Hal"), lived and worked in Southern California. Ann was a good student. She attended Marlborough School in Los Angeles where she served as the class president her senior year.

In 1944 Ann left Los Angeles for Stanford University where she earned a degree in Education. While at Stanford she met Robert ("Bob") Seibert. They were married on December 28, 1948. Bob and Ann became the parents of three sons, Carl (1951), Chris (1953) and Kurt (1957). In 1959 they moved to Aptos, California.

During the 1960-70's Ann was involved in the growth and development of Santa Cruz County, serving on a number of community boards and doing charity work. Much of Ann's focus was on two areas: she would serve as a Den Mother and other leadership roles with the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H, and teaching English as a second language to Monterey Bay's growing Hispanic population. She was also an active member of the Aptos Community United Methodist Church.

In 1978 Ann and Bob moved to Jackson, Wyoming. In the early 1980s Ann became a snowbird, living the warmer months in Jackson while wintering in Aptos, California, or Scottsdale and Surprise, Arizona.

In 1980s Ann and Bob started supporting college students with tuition and other university expenses. Over 100 students across the country at 18 different universities have received scholarships. Ann also established legacy scholarships at Stanford, the University of Southern California, and Utah State University.

Until her move to Utah in 2014, Ann stayed active in Jackson volunteering for many charities, including the Senior Center of Jackson Hole and St. John's Medical Center.

Ann is survived by her three sons, two daughters-in-law, Beth and Doreen, and four grandchildren, Eric, Thomas, Jacob and Samantha.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests you consider a donation to the Senior Center of Jackson Hole and St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming or Santa Cruz Volunteer Center (<https://scvcenter.org>) and Youth Resource Bank (<https://www.youthresourcebank.org/about.html>) in Santa Cruz, California.

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ELECTION 2020

DC activist groups primed for Nov. 3 and whatever follows

By Ashraf Khalil
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Activists in the nation's capital are banding together for Election Day, pooling resources, running training sessions for would-be demonstrators, forming rapid-reaction teams and setting up daylong events that are expected to draw large crowds.

A collection of groups led by Black Lives Matter and Shutdown DC plan an eight-hour event at Black Lives Matter Plaza, one block from the White House, including a giant screen showing election results, DJs and performances by bands playing Washington's signature go-go music.

Robin Bell, a local activist who gained international notoriety for projecting sarcastic messages onto the side of Washington's Trump International Hotel, will have two different projections going in different parts of the city.

Cities around the nation are bracing for election-related unrest as activists get ready for what could be weeks of sustained street actions, depending on how the vote count goes and how President Donald Trump acts after his repeated refusals to say whether he will accept the results.

Coming together

The preparations have brought together a diverse constellation of groups, some decades old and others just formed this summer in the wake of George Floyd's death. Hope Neyer, an organizer with Shutdown DC, said young activists like herself have been able to tap into the experience of "people that have been organizing for longer



JACQUELYN MARTIN — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahead of the presidential election, workers board up Brown Bag, a restaurant on I Street NW, near the White House in downtown Washington on Friday.

than I've been alive."

Her group was rehearsing "election meltdown simulations" that include indefinitely occupying certain public spaces and rushing to intervene in attempts to intimidate voters at polling places or seize ballots.

A recent training session for demonstrators led by BLM emphasized personal safety: Enter a protest with a trusted crew of friends; always look for a safe exit route; be aware of whether you're standing on public, private or federal land; and know your rights in each case.

One slide advised participants that if a protestor is physically attacked, they should "totally surround person being attacked and absorb them back into the crowd."

Maintaining communication is a high priority, with many activists fearing that Facebook and Twitter might shut down and embracing encrypted messaging apps like Signal and Telegram.

Organizers are also preparing rapid-reaction forces to respond to a variety of scenarios ranging from an extended Supreme Court standoff to Trump declaring victory despite official results and summoning supporters and militias to the capital.

"Everyone is focused on Nov. 3 and mobilizing for that," said Bethlehem Yirga of the Palm Collective, a racial justice group that formed this summer. "We're preparing as many people as possible."

Taking precautions

Downtown businesses are already boarding up their windows in anticipation, and Police Chief Peter Newsham promised Thursday that his "entire police department" would be working on Election Day. There are dozens of overlapping law enforcement agencies that control certain landmarks and public spaces.

Demonstrators are gear-

ing up for potential violence, especially after June, when Trump used federal law enforcement to clear the plaza outside the White House that had been filled with peaceful protesters.

"The police are readying for battle. We should be very clear about that," said April Goggans, a core organizer with the local Black Lives Matter affiliate during an Oct. 26 online training session.

Organizer Nadine Bloch has been conducting non-stop training sessions (mostly on Zoom but a few socially distanced live ones) for everyone from passionate young street protesters to federal employees seeking methods of professional civil disobedience. Bloch, whose experience dates back to captaining a ship for Greenpeace in the 1990s seeking to disrupt French nuclear tests, champions a particular school of creative, often performative, resistance that has influenced a generation of local activists.

ELECTION 2020

If 2020 is like 2000, Trump believes he's got the votes

By Jessica Gresko and Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » More than 81 million Americans have already voted in the presidential election, but President Donald Trump thinks he can count on one hand the votes that will determine the outcome.

"I think this will end up in the Supreme Court," Trump said last month of the election.

The justices have already tackled issues involving voting in more than half a dozen states. On Friday, the president on Twitter sharply criticized their decision involving an extended deadline for receiving mailed-in ballots in North Carolina as "CRAZY and so bad for our Country."

His disapproving comments highlight the tension between the law and politics that Chief Justice John Roberts has long said he would like to see the court avoid. Two years ago, Roberts issued a rare public rebuke of Trump for suggesting that judges are loyal to the presidents who appoint them.

Conservative edge

Still, if the election hangs on a razor-thin number of ballots and an election-deciding case were to land in front of the justices, Trump likes his chances of getting five votes to win. That's because with the addition of Justice Amy Coney Barrett this week, conservatives now hold six of the court's nine seats. And Trump gave three of those conservatives their jobs.

An election-deciding case isn't far-fetched, either, of course. Two decades ago, when the disputed 2000 election came down to Florida, the court voted 5-4 along ideological lines to essentially settle the elec-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court is seen as morning fog lingers on Capitol Hill in Washington on Oct. 21.

tion in favor of Republican George W. Bush.

In this presidential election cycle, the high court already has been pulled into fights surrounding voting, and both parties and the president acknowledge an environment ripe for additional legal challenges. So far, the high court has been asked to rule on a flurry of election-related cases where Republicans have challenged and Democrats defended the loosening of voting rules because of the coronavirus pandemic. More litigation is likely ahead, a reason Trump pushed to get Barrett confirmed quickly so she could be on the court before Nov. 3.

Of course, any challenges could also have little impact if either Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden wins decisively.

Decisions so far

So far, the high court has dealt with election cases involving Alabama, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. And just in the last two weeks, the court sided with Republicans to prevent Wisconsin from counting mailed ballots that are received after Election Day. But the court gave Democrats wins by leaving in place extended timelines for receiving bal-

lots in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Neither the North Carolina nor the Pennsylvania case is fully resolved, however. In Pennsylvania, the justices left open the possibility they could take up and decide after the election whether a three-day extension to receive and count absentee ballots ordered by the state's high court was proper.

The issue would take on enormous importance if Pennsylvania turns out to be the crucial state in the election and the votes received between Nov. 3 and Nov. 6 are potentially decisive.

"It has the makings of a perfect storm," University of Iowa law professor Derek Muller said of the situation in Pennsylvania.

Ballots received in Pennsylvania's three-day window will be separated out so those votes can be distinguished. A similar situation is unfolding in Minnesota, where ballots received after Election Day will be separated because a court fight over them is ongoing. In addition to ballots arriving after Election Day, the drop boxes used to collect ballots, signature match for requirements for mail-in ballots and ballots returned without the ballot secrecy envelope could all be topics for post-election legal challenges.

ELECTION 2020

24-hour voting available in Houston

By Juan A. Lozano
The Associated Press

HOUSTON » As rapper Bun B finished his late-night set during a drive-in concert to promote eight 24-hour polling places in and around Houston, he urged fans to go out into the night — and early morning — to vote.

"It feels good to see my people out there that are ready to vote, ready to be heard ... If you haven't voted yet, you need to drive on over. The polls are open right now," the Houston-based performer said during the livestreamed concert Thursday.

Many followed the rapper's advice as they flocked to the polling sites in Harris County — Texas' most populous county — to cast their ballots starting late Thursday and into Friday, the last day of early voting in the state.

"It's very convenient, especially for those people that work at night and sleep during the day," Silveria Sanchez, 36, an emergency medical technician dispatcher, said after voting around 12:30 a.m. Friday during a break from her overnight shift at the Texas Medical Center. She walked five minutes to cast her ballot at a polling station at a food court in the sprawling Houston hospital complex.

Harris County officials have launched some innovative efforts to make it easier to vote in the presidential election. As well as the 24-hour polling sites, the county offers drive-thru voting, and has encouraged its voters to cast their ballots early.

'FULL HOUSE' STAR

Lori Loughlin reports to prison in Bay Area over college scam

By Alanna Durkin Richer and Michael Balsamo
The Associated Press

BOSTON » "Full House" actor Lori Loughlin has reported to a federal prison in California to begin serving her two-month sentence for her role in the college admissions bribery scandal, authorities said Friday.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Boston said Loughlin was being processed at the federal lockup in Dublin.

"The parties recently agreed that the defendant can report to prison on October 30, 2020, instead of on November 19, 2020. The defendant has further agreed that, during her two month sentence, she will not seek an early release from prison on COVID-related grounds," prosecutors said in a statement.

Under the Bureau of Prisons' coronavirus protocols, Loughlin will be screened and tested for COVID-19 and will be placed in quarantine for 14 days.



STEVEN SENNE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

On Aug. 27, 2019, Lori Loughlin leaves federal court in Boston after a hearing in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

The low-security prison in Northern California houses 874 inmates and had two

positive coronavirus cases among inmates, as of Friday morning, federal statistics show.

In August, Loughlin was sentenced to two months and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Gi-

annulli, got five months for paying half a million dollars in bribes to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California as rowing recruits.

Prosecutors said Giannulli didn't report to prison with Loughlin on Friday.

Plea deals worked out with the celebrity couple call for Loughlin to pay a \$150,000 fine and perform 100 hours of community service, and Giannulli to pay a \$250,000 fine and perform 250 hours of community service.

The famous couple's sentencing came three months after they reversed course and admitted to participating in the college admissions cheating scheme that has laid bare the lengths to which some wealthy parents will go to get their kids into elite universities.

CRIME

Kennedy cousin Skakel will not be retried in 1975 killing

By Dave Collins
The Associated Press

STAMFORD, CONN. » A prosecutor said Friday that Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel will not face a second trial in the killing of Martha Moxley, an announcement that came 45 years to the day after the teenager was bludgeoned to death in her wealthy Connecticut neighborhood.

Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo Jr. said at a hearing at Stamford Superior Court that the case could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Skakel, a nephew of Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel Kennedy, was convicted of murder in 2002 and sentenced to 20 years to life in prison. Several appeals followed. After serving 11 years behind

bars, Skakel was freed in 2013 on \$1.2 million bail after a judge overturned his conviction, saying his trial lawyer failed to adequately represent him.

The state Supreme Court upheld that ruling in 2018, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the state's appeal last year.

Moxley's brother, John, said outside the courthouse that he still believes Skakel killed his sister but he and their mother, Dorothy, are at peace with the decision not to seek a second trial.

"His life will never be the same. Mine will never be the same. I wouldn't want to walk a mile in his shoes," Moxley said.

Skakel did not comment during the hearing or outside court. His attorney, Stephan Seeger, said Skakel is innocent.

COURTS

Illinois judge OKs extradition of Rittenhouse to Wisconsin

The Associated Press

WAUKEGAN, ILL. » An Illinois judge on Friday ordered a 17-year-old accused of killing two demonstrators in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to be extradited across the border to stand trial on homicide charges.

The ruling came several hours after a hearing at the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan, where defense lawyers sought to persuade Judge Paul Novak to block their Kyle Rittenhouse's transfer to Wisconsin.

At the hearing began, Rittenhouse's lawyer said he'd

had a change of heart since notifying the court that he planned to call witnesses, including Rittenhouse's mother. Instead, John Pierce focused on what he called "fatal defects" in extradition papers.

After 45 minutes of arguments delving into the mi-

nutia of extradition law and how precedent should be interpreted, Pierce said his client should remain in Illinois.

"This Illinois child must go free," he told the judge.

A local prosecutor said the law is unambiguous in requiring Rittenhouse's ex-

tradition, saying that blocking his transfer would undermine the justice system.

"You can imagine the chaos if someone can commit a crime and step over the (state borderline) and get sanctuary," Lake County Assistant State's Attorney Stephen Scheller said.

The shootings happened Aug. 25, two days after a white police officer trying to arrest Jacob Blake, 29, shot the Black man seven times in the back, paralyzing him from the waist down. Video of the police shooting sparked outrage and helped spur on the protests.

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TEMBLOR

Quake strikes Turkish coast and Greek island, killing at least 19

By Zeynep Bilginsoy and Elena Becatoros
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL » A strong earthquake struck Friday in the Aegean Sea between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Samos, killing at least 19 people and injuring over 700 amid collapsed buildings and flooding, officials said.

A small tsunami struck the Seferihisar district south of Izmir, the city in western Turkey that was the worst affected by the quake, said Haluk Ozener, director of the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute.

At least 17 people were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, including one who drowned, and 709 were injured, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD.

Among the dead were the wife and two children of the secretary-general of the Turkish Medical Association's Izmir branch, the group said.

On Samos, two teenagers died after being struck by a wall that collapsed. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis tweeted condolences, saying "Words are too poor to describe what



People work on a collapsed building in Izmir, Turkey, on Friday after a strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea.

one feels before the loss of children."

At least 19 people were injured on the island, with two, including a 14-year-old, being airlifted to Athens and seven hospitalized on the island, health authorities said.

The small tsunami that hit the Turkish coast also affected Samos, with seawater flooding streets in the main harbor town of Vathi. Authorities warned people to stay away from the coast

and from potentially damaged buildings.

Izmir Gov. Yavuz Selim Kosger said at least 70 people were rescued from wrecked buildings, with four destroyed and more than 10 collapsed. Others suffered less severe damage, he said, but did not give an exact number.

Search-and-rescue efforts were underway in at least 17 buildings, AFAD said. Turkish media showed rescuers pulling people from the

rubble, including one survivor who was found about six hours after the quake. Emergency teams continued digging after nightfall and cranes lifted concrete slabs from the wreckage.

The earthquake, which the Kandilli Institute said had a magnitude of 6.9, struck at 2:51 p.m. local time (1151 GMT) in Turkey and was centered in the Aegean northeast of Samos. AFAD said it measured the magnitude at 6.6.

DEMONSTRATIONS

As anger rises, Muslims protest French cartoons

By Isabel Debre
The Associated Press

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES » Tens of thousands of Muslims, from Pakistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French president's vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet Muhammad continues to roil the Muslim world.

Hardline Islamic groups across the region have seized on the the French government's staunch secularist stance as an affront to Islam, rallying their supporters and stirring up rage.

Demonstrations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad turned violent as some 2,000 people who tried to march toward the French Embassy were pushed back by police firing tear gas and beating protesters with batons. Crowds of Islamist activists hanged an effigy of French President Emmanuel Macron from a highway overpass after pounding it furiously with their shoes. Several demonstrators were wounded in clashes with police as authorities pushed to evict activists from the area surrounding the embassy.

In Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, an estimated 10,000 followers of

the radical Islamic Tehreek-e-Labbaik party celebrating the Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, took to the streets. They chanted anti-France slogans, raised banners and clogged major roads en route to a Sufi shrine.

"There's only one punishment for blasphemy," bellowed Khadim Hussain Rizvi, a fiery cleric leading the march.

"Beheading! Beheading!" the protesters yelled back.

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

The images, republished by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo to mark the opening of the trial for the deadly 2015 attack against the publication, have stirred the ire of Muslims across the world who consider depictions of the prophet blasphemous. On Thursday, a knife-wielding Tunisian man carrying a copy of the Quran killed three people at a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice.

AFRICA

Tanzania's populist leader declared winner of flawed vote

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, KENYA » Tanzania's populist President John Magufuli has been declared the overwhelming winner of a second term amid allegations of widespread election fraud, while the ruling party won

enough seats in parliament to change the constitution.

The national electoral commission late Friday said Magufuli received 12.5 million votes, or 84%, while top opposition candidate Tundu Lissu received 1.9 million, or 13%. Turnout was roughly 50%, with 14.8

million people voting after 29 million registered.

The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party won parliament seats in 253 of the 261 constituencies announced so far, achieving upsets in opposition strongholds by wide margins.

Some in the ruling party had called for the presidency's two-term limit to be extended if enough parliament seats could be secured.

Lissu has rejected the vote while alleging "widespread irregularities" and called for peaceful demonstrations. The opposition asserts that thousands of observers were turned away from polling stations on Wednesday, and that at least a dozen people were killed on the eve of the vote in the semi-autonomous region of Zanzibar. Internet and text-messaging services slowed dramatically or disappeared.

But electoral commission chair, Semistocles Kajage, asserted in late Friday's announcement that all the votes were legitimate.

Large crowds of ruling party supporters who had gathered to watch the election results were celebrating in the streets. There was no immediate comment by the president.



The ruling party CCM presidential candidate Dr. John Magufuli casts his vote at Chamwino in Dodoma on Wednesday.

The two main opposition parties, Lissu's CHADEMA and ACT Wazalendo, planned to hold a joint press conference on Saturday, a spokesman said.

The United States has said that "irregularities and the overwhelming margins of victory raise serious doubts about the credibility of the results announced."

Few international elec-

tion observers were present, unlike in past years.

The vote "marked the most significant backsliding in Tanzania's democratic credentials," Tanzania Elections Watch, a group of regional experts, said in an assessment released Friday. It noted a heavy deployment of military and police whose conduct created a "climate of fear."



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Commentary

Nightmare on Halloween Avenue

By Stephen Kessler

Trick or treat

I bet you didn't expect to find me at your door on stilts in a baggy fat suit and long red tie with a Russian flag lapel pin, an orange wig and a MAGA hat. And these here chaperones are my thugs, my enablers, my bodyguards, my guy with the nuclear football, my makeup artist, my valet and the couple of dozen women who are suing me for sexual assault. Oh, and back there at the dark end of the street are my lawyers and accountants — they're the ones in the armored Humvee.

We hope you have enough treats for all of us — because we have plenty of tricks for you. We'll build you a wall to nowhere. We'll abduct your kids and throw them in cages and you'll never see them again. We'll deregulate toxic everything. We'll stack your courts with righteous judges from the 18th century. We'll raid your fridge. We'll use your restrooms. And we don't want no stinking candy, we want your mail-in ballots.

Now we're talking Halloween. I'm starting to feel pandemic, possessed by something I tried to repress, some personality disorder, subconscious rumblings of presidential ambitions, an inner dictator acting out, but it's OK because we're all id tonight and everything is permitted, nothing is off the table and the sky's the limit. I used to think Halloween was a dumb idea, a night for kids to get up to some harmless mischief, but by the time you're grown up you are who you are, so why pretend to be someone else, some juvenile or adult delinquent. But this is the one night in the year you can be that bad person you might have been but never had the nerve to be in daylight.

That's why I'm dressed up as Donald Duck. I mean Kim Jong Un. I mean Ronald Reagan. I mean Ronald McDonald. And these companions are my fools and clowns, cleverly disguised as the Secret Service. Do you mind if we invade your home and use your bathrooms and all your toilet paper? We drink a lot of Diet

Coke, you know. And we've brought enough changes of costume to last until the election results come in. But no masks because masks, like government regulations, deprive us of the freedom to contaminate, to spread infection and herd immunity everywhere so everyone can just get sick and die and put an end to this fake pandemic. Then we can direct our panic to more appropriate objects, like immigrants, antifa, Democrats, scientists, women.

And look, that's what my gang of trick-or-treaters have changed into: all the "others" you love to fear and hate. They'll steal your jobs, loot your shops, burn your suburbs, rig your elections, take your temperatures, trace your contacts, and won't even cook or clean your house or raise your babies anymore. They're socialists, communists, anarchists and feminists — the masks are a giveaway because real men don't wear masks, we inhale pestilence and exhale our blend of bad breath and resentment. We make every night a carnival of lost souls banging on your door demanding to see your documents.

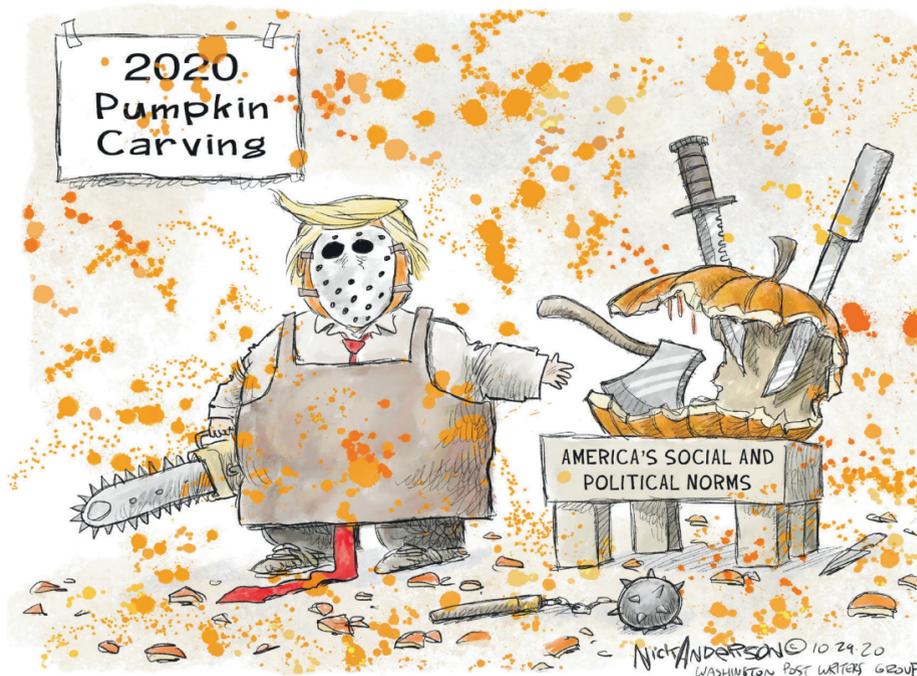
That's why I'm asking not what you can do for your country, but what you can do for me. I don't need your treats or sweets but your votes-by-mail. They'll be delivered, trust me, by handpicked functionaries and factotums of my personal justice department. "No justice, no peace"? You said it. No election, no transfer of power? We're working on that.

We figure if enough white Americans in desert camo stand outside polling places toting AR-15s, nobody will dare vote anyway. And if nobody votes, I can declare myself president for life. My personal medical researchers and physicians are shooting me up daily with an immortality cocktail available only to the most potent POTUS of all time. Every day I run the world, the more it resembles me.

Next month: Thanks but no thanks — our 2020 Thanksgiving.

Stephen Kessler is the author of "Where Was I?" and other books.

Cartoonist's take



As You See It

Offensive cartoon: Plea for return to civil discourse

A number of cartoons by De Cinzo had been posted on the Trail Now website and have since been removed. One of these cartoons was re-used in a video from a local candidate who has since removed it and sincerely apologized.

There is no room in our public forum for offensive discourse, whether it be by cartoon or any other type of communication. Whether consciously or unconsciously, De Cinzo employs dangerous and unacceptable anti-Semitic tropes against a political candidate, depicting him hunched over with an enlarged nose and carrying bags of money. One only needs to search "anti-Semitic cartoons" to see scores of similar depictions used by the Nazis.

We ask everyone to refrain from reposting and sharing them for any reason, and we issue our fervent plea for a return to civil discourse based on the merits of issues rather than personal attacks.

— Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias and Rabbi Paula Marcus Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center, Aptos

Time to show the president some respect

I've just finished reading the Sentinel. I commented to my wife "today the Sentinel may have outdone its self in leaning to the left. Virtually every page and every article is anti Trump and anti right' wingers." But then I got to my favorite section of the paper — "As You See It" — and was so impressed with

JoAnn Christiansen's letter that stated "We have had four years of hate and disrespect of difference which requires time for healing and connection." I wholeheartedly agree. Never before have we had four such years whereas Democrat leaders and their supporters hated and disrespected our president virtually every day he's been in office. It's time to stop and if we're fortunate enough to have him for another four years let's show him some respect.

— Elwin Haddix, Ben Lomond

Laird is part of the problem, not a solution

Sacramento is broken. Our Golden State is bursting at the seams with homelessness, excessive taxes, wildfires, and a big housing affordability problem. These issues will continue to get worse unless we change the way we do things.

We can do something to help right now. Vicki Nohrden is running for State Senate against someone who has been in politics for years. We need new blood, new ideas and someone who has not already sold out to Sacramento lobbyists. John Laird has received over 80% of his campaign donations from Sacramento. That tells us he will only continue feeding this broken system.

He was our Secretary of Natural Resources for 8 years and did nothing to help our forests, or our county and supports the waste-of-money rail line. We desperately need and deserve someone who will put us first. Join me in voting for Vicki Nohrden and let's fix this state.

— Kristen Collishaw, Scotts Valley

Organizing to get out the student voter turnout

"Have you voted yet?" is a phrase that should be buzzing with more intensity as the election creeps closer. In my generation only 40% of us vote even though 70% register. As part of one of the largest generations alive it is very shocking that there isn't more concern for political decisions and policies that will affect us for a lifetime. With a pandemic thrown into the mix, mobilizing students is even more difficult because peer interactions are more limited in a virtual society. Thankfully, organizations like CalPirg are working to spread this important message and are overcoming the obstacles in these challenging times. Despite COVID-19, CalPirg has helped over 10,000 students register across California, which is momentous to increasing student voter turnout. And it doesn't stop there. Right now CalPirg is working hard to get out the vote on election day. This year is in the making for another historic turnout.

— Alexander Merrick, Santa Cruz

Halloween: Four more years of Trump truly scary

Because of the coronavirus pandemic this Halloween will be like no other in recent history. There will be no parties, no trick or treating in the conventional sense. Which is a shame because four more years of Trump would make a helluva scary costume.

— Jerry Cabak, Santa Cruz

Commentary

Count on national popular vote, not Electoral College

Donald Trump may be the last loser to win through the Electoral College. Two of the



Amy Goodman & Denis Moynihan

last three presidencies, Trump's included, have gone to the candidate who lost the popular vote. In 2000, the Supreme Court halted the Florida recount, handing the election to George W. Bush. It was later determined that Vice President Al Gore actually won the election by half a million votes. In 2016, Hillary Clinton received almost 3 million more votes than Donald Trump, but Trump still won. These victories, where the loser wins, were made possible through the Electoral College, one of the U.S. Constitution's key anti-democratic provisions.

The 55 wealthy white men who drafted the Constitution in 1787, many of whom were slaveholders, envisioned a democracy, but they didn't trust the masses

to choose the right president. So they created the Electoral College. Now, more than 230 years later, a mass movement is building to elect the president through a national popular vote.

In December 2000, while the U.S. Supreme Court was deciding on the Florida recount in the Bush v. Gore case, the late, legendary historian Howard Zinn appeared on the Democracy Now! news hour, to shed some light on this little-understood entity, the Electoral College. He described the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia:

"When they came to the question of how to elect a president, there was a rather lively debate over how the president should be elected and how many years should a president serve and should there be a vice president, and so on. There were several proposals made that the president should be simply elected by popular vote. Those proposals were immediately knocked down ... the founding fathers were really not inclined to have real popular choice of the people who would run our government."

Instead, they devised a plan whereby state legislatures would appoint "electors" who would meet amongst themselves on a state-by-state basis to choose the president, forming a firewall between the voters and the election of the president. At that time, the voters consisted of a very select group of mostly white landowning men (a few states allowed free Black men to vote as well).

Alexander Hamilton, who has achieved star status as the subject of Lin-Manuel Miranda's blockbuster musical "Hamilton," defended the decision to create the Electoral College, writing in Federalist Papers 68 that the Electors, who would deliberate in a "judicious" manner, would weed out presidential contenders who were unfit for office:

"Talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity, may alone suffice to elevate a man to the first honors in a single State; but it will require other talents, and a different kind of merit, to establish him ... for the distinguished office of President of the United States."

If the Electoral College was in-

tended to protect the nation from a president skilled at "low intrigue" and "the little arts of popularity," it clearly failed in 2016.

Each state receives a number of electors equal to the number of senators and representatives it has in Congress. Since 1961, the 23rd amendment gave the District of Columbia three electors as well.

The states grant their electors to whatever presidential candidate wins the popular vote in their state. In all but two of the states, it's "winner take all." It is this system that has driven presidential campaigns to focus almost entirely on a handful of so-called "swing states," places where either a Republican or Democratic candidate has a chance of winning. For example, the other forty or so states are generally ignored by the campaigns, as the allocation of their electoral votes is a foregone conclusion. California, Oregon and Washington are "Blue States," and Mississippi and Alabama are "Red States."

Modern voters, most of whom believe a president should be

popularly elected, are joining together, state by state, to overcome the historical aberration of the Electoral College. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a plan to achieve that. It doesn't do away with the Electoral College. Scrapping it entirely would require the difficult, lengthy constitutional amendment process.

Instead, each state that adopts the compact passes a law that says its electors will go to whichever candidate wins the national popular vote in the country as a whole, regardless of what candidate wins in that particular state.

The compact won't take effect until enough states adopt it so that the aggregate of their electoral votes equals 270 or more — enough to guarantee the presidency to the most popular candidate. To date, 15 states and the District of Columbia have passed the law, amassing a total of 196 electoral votes. When states with a total of 74 electoral votes or more join the compact, the dysfunction of the Electoral College system will come to an end.

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EUROPE

France mourns 3 killed in church attack, boosts security

By Angela Charlton and Daniel Cole
The Associated Press

NICE, FRANCE » Mourners lit candles and prayed silently Friday to honor three people killed in a knife attack at a church, as France heightened security at potential targets at home and abroad amid outrage over its defense of the right to publish cartoons mocking the prophet of Islam.

The attacker, who recently arrived in Europe from Tunisia, was hospitalized with life-threatening wounds, and investigators in France and his homeland are looking into his motives and connections, though authorities had previously said he acted alone. Tunisian antiterrorism authorities opened an investigation Friday into an online claim of responsibility by a person who said the attack on the Notre Dame Basilica in the Mediterranean city of Nice was staged by a previously unknown Tunisian extremist group.

Widespread

From Pakistan to Russia and Lebanon, Muslims held more protests Friday to show their anger at caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were recently republished in a French newspaper as well as at French President Emmanuel Macron's staunch defense of that decision and strong stance against political Islam.

Macron's government stood firm, and called up thousands of reserve soldiers to protect France and reinforce security at French sites abroad. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said that the country is "at war" with Islamist extremists, and a conservative lawmaker for the Nice region called for a "French-style Guantanamo" to lock up terrorist suspects.

Many French Muslims



THIBAULT CAMUS — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A French soldier patrols next to the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Friday.

denounced the killings, while warning against stigmatizing the country's peaceful Muslim majority.

While investigators sought to develop a picture of the attacker, identified as Ibrahim Issaoui, they detained a second suspect, a 47-year-old man believed to have been in contact with Issaoui the night before, according to a judicial official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be named.

Mom speaks

Issaoui's mother told Tunisian investigators that her son led a "normal life" for his age, drinking alcohol and dressing casually, and started praying two years ago but showed no suspicious activity, said Mohsen Dali, a spokesman at the Tunisian antiterrorism prosecutor's office.

He told The Associated Press that Issaoui was not flagged for radicalism and decided on Sept. 14 to emigrate illegally to Italy — after a failed first attempt — and reached Nice the day before the attack. Before Nice, Issaoui, who was born in 1999, arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa on Sept. 20, France's antiterrorism prosecutor said.

Dali said an online post asserted the attack was staged by a group called Al

Mehdi of Southern Tunisia, previously unknown to Tunisian authorities. French authorities are not commenting on the claim.

Issaoui's mother Qamra, who lives in the Tunisian province of Sfax, earlier told Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV with tears in her eyes that she was surprised to hear her son was in France when he called upon his arrival and had no idea what he was planning.

"You don't know the French language, you don't know anyone there, you're going to live alone there, why, why did you go there?" she recounted telling him.

His brother told Al-Arabiya that Issaoui had said he would sleep in front of the church, and sent a photograph showing him at the basilica in Nice. A neighbor said he knew the assailant when he was a mechanic and held various odd jobs, and had shown no signs of radicalization.

Tunisians fleeing a virus-battered economy make up the largest contingent of migrants landing in Italy this year. Italian media reported that when he arrived, Issaoui was placed with 800 others on a virus quarantine boat.

Italy's interior minister confirmed Friday that the suspect was ordered to leave on Oct. 9 but did not say if any action was taken to make sure he did.

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