



## Calling on colleagues to condemn violence

The World

SALEM — On Friday, Aug. 7, State Representative David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford, and State Senator Dallas Heard, R-Roseburg, members of Oregon's Southwest House and Senate District 1, condemned the orchestrated violence, arson and attempted murder of police officers in Portland and called on their legislative Portland colleagues to join them.

"Having worked closely with law enforcement as a former City Council president, county commissioner and current legislator, the willful, deliberate and planned attacks on our public safety personnel must be condemned by the Governor and legislators that represent them," said Sen. Brock Smith.

"We all should support our First Amendment: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise



State Rep. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford

thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances,' and can do so while condemning the lawlessness from a faction whose sole purpose is the destruction of property and threatening the lives of our public safety personnel and



State Sen. Dallas Heard, R-Roseburg

their families." "I traveled to Portland and witnessed firsthand many people exercising their right to protest peacefully," said Sen. Heard. "While I may not have agreed with everything that the speakers were saying, I fully respected and would defend their right to do what they were doing. But I whole heartedly

condemn the violence and destruction that some people were there to cause, and which we have seen become more hateful and intense over the last month."

"The silence of Kate Brown, Democrat legislative leadership, and Mayor Wheeler on these acts over the last several weeks is deafening and should concern everyone," Sen. Heard added. "It has put the lives of our men and women in law enforcement, administrative personnel, and the actual peaceful protestors at great risk! It is time for them to step up and be the leaders of peace that they claim to be or resign."

"With escalating attacks spreading across Portland, we call on our colleagues to join us in advocating to end the violence that continues to threaten the health, lives and safety of our Oregon Peace Officers and their families," the senators said.

## Another virus case in Curry County

The World

CURRY COUNTY — Curry County Public Health was notified by Curry General Hospital just after 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Public health has reached out to the subject and at this point is still trying to contact the individual, according to a press release from Curry County Public Health Public Health Administrator Sherri Ward.

"This person is the significant other of the out-of-state resident that was reported as a confirmed case and contacted on Aug. 7," Ward wrote. "This additional case will be reported back to their state of residency and will not be reflected in Curry County's overall active count."

As of Monday, Curry County's total reported number of positive cases is 17, with 14 recovered cases, three active cases, no hospitalizations and no deaths. The person who was from out of state and vacationing in the area who tested positive on Aug. 7 was incorrectly reported in the overall positive cases for Curry County.

"Please remember, it is important that we all follow the OHA and CDC guidelines and Governor's directives about social distancing, wearing facial coverings in public buildings and protecting yourselves by staying home to slow the spread and save lives," stated Ward.

Curry County Public Health will continue to keep the public informed with all the information they can in order to keep its citizens safe.

## 227 new COVID-19 cases, 1 new death

The World

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed one more life in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 357, the Oregon Health Authority reported Monday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 227 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the state total to 21,488.

The new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported Monday are in the following counties: Baker (2), Clackamas (10), Columbia (1), Crook (2), Deschutes (7), Hood River (2), Jackson (8), Jefferson (11), Lane (5), Lincoln (2), Linn (3), Malheur (21), Marion (27), Morrow (15), Multnomah (45), Polk (6), Umatilla (15), Washington (37), and Yamhill (8).

Oregon's 357th COVID-19 death is an 88-year-old man in Multnomah County who tested positive on July 29 and died on Aug. 5 in his residence. He had underlying conditions.

**Stay informed about COVID-19:**

Oregon response: The Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Office of Emergency Management lead the state response.

United States response: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention leads the U.S. response.

Global response: The World Health Organization guides the global response.

## National Play in the Sand Day



Amy Moss Strong, The World

Families enjoy Bastendorf Beach on a recent foggy afternoon while the dredge dumps its spoils in the ocean just outside the Charleston jetties.

## Lawmakers restrict choke holds

SALEM (AP) — A measure further restricting the use of choke holds by police passed the Oregon Legislature by wide margins Monday night as lawmakers concluded a special session called to fix a billion-dollar budget deficit due to COVID-19.

House Bill 4301 prohibits the use of choke holds by police or corrections officers except for self defense as defined by law.

"It's long past time we disallowed officers from using chokeholds," Sen. James Manning, D-Eugene, said. "It's wrong and it can be lethal. It is not a tool to deescalate. It's a tool to take a life."

The measure passed the House 55 to 2 and the Senate 22 to 5.

Some leading lawmakers had hoped to focus the special ses-

session, which began Monday and adjourned after 11 p.m., only on spending matters. The Legislature had been tasked with filling a \$1.2 billion budget hole.

Lawmakers cut roughly \$400 million across state agencies and used about \$400 million in emergency funds from the Education Stability Fund to help repair the budget.

The total adopted state budget for the 2019-21 biennium is nearly \$86 billion, about a 10% increase from the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget.

There were complaints throughout the day that Oregon's second special session of the year, held under coronavirus restrictions, didn't allow lawmakers and others enough time to debate or voice concerns about legislation.

"(Lawmakers in the Capitol)

are grumpy and they're getting grumpier," Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said during a joint committee work session.

In an effort to place bills on the Oregon Legislature floor Monday evening, Courtney urged lawmakers in the joint committee to only ask pressing questions.

"Either let's get (the lawmakers) home or let's vote on bills," Courtney said. He said previously he was trying to keep the session short because of pandemic concerns.

House Speaker Tina Kotek also announced the Legislature would not take public testimony on bills during the special session, but the public can submit written testimony.

One bill that would have helped speed up the processing

of unemployment insurance claims for thousands of Oregonians waiting for benefits was killed in committee, resulting in harsh words from Gov. Kate Brown.

"It's appalling that Senate Republicans today voted down a common sense fix to the unemployment process that would put money in people's pockets faster," Brown said. "The bill would have eliminated red tape for education employees, freeing up staff to process other claims more quickly."

The committee spent a large portion of the afternoon discussing proposals surrounding the state's unemployment benefits process. One of the bills would increase the amount of money Oregon workers can make as they continue to get weekly unemployment.

## Shooting near White House interrupts briefing

WASHINGTON (AP) — A uniformed Secret Service officer shot and wounded a man during a confrontation near the White House that led to President Donald Trump being abruptly escorted out of a briefing room during a televised news conference Monday, authorities said.

The White House complex was not breached and no one under Secret Service protection was in danger, said Tom Sullivan, chief of the Secret Service Uniformed Division.

The name of the man, 51, and

his condition were not released by Sullivan. The District of Columbia fire department said the man suffered serious or possibly critical injuries.

Sullivan said the man had claimed he was armed, moved aggressively toward the officer, and appeared ready to fire before the officer shot him once. Sullivan did not address whether the man had indeed been armed.

Law enforcement officials were trying to determine a motive and authorities were in-

vestigating whether the man had a history of mental illness.

Trump had just begun a coronavirus briefing when a U.S. Secret Service agent escorted him from the briefing room. The president returned minutes later, saying there had been a "shooting" outside the White House that was "under control."

"There was an actual shooting and somebody's been taken to the hospital," Trump said. The president said law enforcement had fired the shots and that he believed the individual who

was shot was armed. "It was the suspect who was shot," he said.

Trump said the agent had escorted him to the Oval Office. The White House was placed on lockdown following the incident.

In a Monday night statement to reporters, Sullivan said the shooting occurred just before 6 p.m. EDT after the man approached the uniformed Secret Service officer near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and told the officer he had a weapon.

# Arrest of activist galvanizes Black Lives Matter

PORTLAND (AP) — The arrest during a Portland, Oregon protest of a Black woman who became a leading activist in the racial justice movement after she was assaulted by a white supremacist three years ago has galvanized local and national Black Lives Matter groups.

Demonstrators took to the streets again Monday night and police broke up a protest outside a police precinct substation after they said protesters shined strobe lights at officers and hurled eggs and water bottles at them.

Nine people were arrested when clashes broke out at the protest that lasted into early Tuesday morning, with some protesters throwing rocks and golf balls in the mayhem. One officer suffered an

arm injury in a scuffle for which she was treated and released from a hospital, Portland police said in a statement.

Portland has endured more than two months of often violent, nightly protests since George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, including weeks of clashes between protesters and federal agents dispatched to the city by President Donald Trump in to protect a federal courthouse that was a focus of the demonstrators.

Authorities said the prominent activist, Demetria Hester, won't be charged following her predawn Monday arrest after a protest that started Sunday night and turned violent outside the union headquarters for Portland's police.

Hester, 46, had been booked on suspicion of disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer during the protest. Hester's arrest drew a sharp rebuke from national Black Lives Matter activists, who are increasingly focusing on demonstrations in Oregon's largest city.

After her release, Hester told reporters that she would keep protesting and joined others in announcing plans for a fundraiser to send Black mothers to Washington, D.C.

"I was born and bred to do this. This is a dream come true," Hester said. "This is a revolution and we're getting reparations."

Hester and 15 other people were arrested during Portland's 73rd consecutive nights of

protest, when a group of about 200 demonstrators gathered at a park and then marched to the union headquarters building, where some people set fires outside the building and launched fireworks at officers.

Two officers were injured, including one who was burned on the neck when a firework exploded, police said. Police declared that the event was a riot shortly after 10 p.m. and began arresting people, including Hester.

Trump again seized on the protests in the city where he has harshly criticized local Democratic officials and said on Twitter that Portland was "out of control." He urged Democratic Gov. Kate Brown to bring in the Oregon National Guard.

Civil rights groups in Portland and members of the international Black Lives Matter organization, who traveled to Portland, decried Hester's arrest and said the city was at the center of the racial justice protest movement.

"The struggle here in Portland has become almost ground zero because what we've seen under this administration is the kind of flexing that we haven't really seen in our generation, ever," said Janaya Khan, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Toronto. "People only protest when politicians and policies and police have failed to protect them."

Hester gained prominence in 2017 when she was assaulted by a white supremacist while riding a light-rail train. The man

who attacked Hester, Jeremy Christian, stabbed two men to death the following night and critically injured a third man when they came to the defense of two Black women — one of them wearing a Muslim head-covering — who were being harassed by Christian.

Hester gave emotional testimony this spring at Christian's murder trial. Christian was convicted and given two life sentences without possibility of parole.

Hester has reappeared in public this summer as one of the main organizers of a group of mostly white parents who have been protesting nightly. She leads marches each night, using a bullhorn to chant in a voice cracking with fatigue.

# Inaction leaves states to pay for election costs

ATLANTA (AP) — Congress' failure so far to pass another round of coronavirus aid leaves state and local officials on their own to deal with the soaring costs of holding a presidential election amid a deadly pandemic.

That could leave them scrambling to solve problems that surfaced during the primary season in time for November's election.

The coronavirus outbreak has triggered unprecedented disruptions for election officials across the U.S. They are dealing with staffing shortages and budget constraints while also trying to figure out how to process a flood of absentee ballot requests, as more and more states have moved to mail-in balloting as a safer way to vote.

"It is appalling that Congress has not provided the needed resources for state and local elections officials during the COVID-19 pandemic," said California Secretary of State Alex Padilla. "Elections officials' ability to fill the gap is nearly impossible given the already strained state and local government budgets."

In its first round of virus relief in March, Congress sent \$400 million to state election offices to help cover unexpected costs related to the pandemic. But that is far short of the \$2 billion the Brennan Center for Justice has said is needed.

"Congress's failure to reach a coronavirus deal is imperiling November's elections," said Wendy

Weiser, director of the center's democracy program. "Without an infusion of federal funds, election officials simply won't be able to prepare adequately for the election, and we will see massive meltdowns across the country."

In the U.S., state and local officials are responsible for administering elections and covering the costs.

But there was no way for them to plan for holding an election in the middle of a pandemic, essentially having to deal with a massive surge in absentee ballots while also trying to keep in-person voting options available after many workers opted out of staffing the polls during the primaries.

"This wasn't in anyone's budget," said Ben Hovland, chairman of the U.S.

Election Assistance Commission, which provides support for state and local election officials.

Experts point to the rocky execution of the primaries since the pandemic began, in which there were numerous reports of absentee ballots failing to arrive or rejected for being late. Primaries were marred by hours-long lines in Atlanta, Milwaukee and Las Vegas as polling places were consolidated.

"Without proper funding, guidance and preparedness, the problems seen in previous elections are going to be just the tip of the iceberg this November," Sylvia Albert, voting and elections director with Common Cause, warned lawmakers during a congressional hearing last

week.

If more federal money is made available, it could allow local election offices to hire more temporary workers to help process ballot requests and count ballots on Election Day. It also could be used to boost the pay of poll workers.

In Ohio, Secretary of State Frank LaRose has said he would seek approval to pay postage for absentee ballot applications and returned ballots if he had more money.

In New Mexico, state election regulators are anticipating a \$6 million shortfall without additional funding for the November general election. Of the nearly \$3.9 million New Mexico received in the first round of congressional virus relief, all but \$750,000

was spent during the primary, according to Alex Curtas, spokesman for Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who has been pushing for more funding for elections, said she remains hopeful a deal can be reached. But she warned that the window was closing for states to take action, such as paying the cost of postage, purchasing drop boxes for ballots, and recruiting and training a new group of poll workers.

"If Congress acts quickly, states can still implement these measures to help keep voters safe this November," Klobuchar said. "September seems way too late to make a big difference."

# Powerful storm leaves path of destruction across Midwest

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A rare storm packing 100 mph winds and with power similar to an inland hurricane swept across the Midwest, blowing over trees, flipping vehicles, causing widespread property damage and leaving hundreds of thousands without power as it moved through Chicago and into Indiana and Michigan.

The storm known as a derecho lasted several hours Monday as it tore from eastern Nebraska across Iowa and parts of Wisconsin and Illinois, had the wind speed of a major hurricane, and likely caused more widespread damage than a normal tornado, said Patrick Marsh, science support chief at the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

In northern Illinois, the National Weather Service reported a wind gust of 92 mph near Dixon, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Chicago, and the storm left downed trees and power lines that blocked roadways in Chicago and its suburbs. After leaving Chicago, the most potent part of the storm system moved over north central Indiana by late afternoon.

"It ramped up pretty quick" around 7 a.m. Central time in Eastern Nebraska. I don't think anybody expected widespread winds approaching 100, 110 mph," Marsh said.

A derecho is not quite a hurricane. It has no eye and its winds come across in a line. But the damage it is likely to do spread over such a large area is more like an inland hurricane

than a quick more powerful tornado, Marsh said. He compared it to a devastating Super Derecho of 2009, which was one of the strongest on record and traveled more than 1,000 miles in 24 hours, causing \$500 million in damage, widespread power outages and killing a handful of people.

"This is our version of a hurricane," said Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini. He said Monday's derecho will go down as one of the strongest in recent history and be one of the nation's worst weather events of 2020.

Several people were injured and widespread property damage was reported in Marshall County in central Iowa after 100 mph winds swept through the area, said its homeland

security coordinator Kim Elder.

Elder said winds blew over trees, flipped cars, downed power lines, ripped up road signs and tore roofs off buildings, some of which caught fire.

"We had quite a few people trapped in buildings and cars," Elder said, adding that the extent of injuries was unknown and no fatalities had been reported. "We're in life-saving mode right now."

Marshalltown Mayor Joel Greer declared a civil emergency, telling residents to stay home and off the streets so that first responders could respond to calls.

MidAmerican Energy said nearly 101,000 customers in the Des Moines area were without power after the storm moved through the area. Reports

from spotters filed with the National Weather Service in Des Moines had winds in excess of 70 mph.

Roof damage to homes and buildings was reported in several Iowa cities, including the roof of a hockey arena in Des Moines. Across the state, large trees fell on cars and houses. Some semi-trailers flipped over or were blown off highways.

Farmers reported that some grain bins were destroyed and fields were flattened, but the extent of damage to Iowa's agriculture industry wasn't immediately clear.

MidAmerican spokeswoman Tina Hoffman said downed trees made it difficult in some locations for workers to get to power lines. In some cases, power line poles were snapped off.

"It's a lot of tree damage. Very high winds. It will be a significant effort to get through it all and get everybody back on," Hoffman said. "It was a big front that went all the way through the state."

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had "both significant and widespread damage throughout the city," said public safety spokesman Greg Buelow. Tens of thousands of people in the metro area were without power.

"We have damage to homes and businesses, including siding and roofs damaged," he said. "Trees and power lines are down throughout the entire city."

Cedar Rapids on Monday night issued a 10 p.m. curfew that will continue until further notice, as crews worked to clean up fallen debris.

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# Russia's approval of vaccine greeted with alarm

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia on Tuesday became the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine for use in tens of thousands of its citizens despite international skepticism about injections that have not completed clinical trials and were studied in only dozens of people for less than two months.

President Vladimir Putin said while announcing the approval that one of his two adult daughters already was inoculated. He said the vaccine underwent the necessary tests and was shown to provide lasting immunity to the coronavirus, although Russian authorities have offered no proof to back up the claim of its safety or effectiveness.

"I know it has proven efficient and forms a stable immunity," he said. "We must be grateful to those who made that first step very important for our country and the entire

world." However, scientists in Russia and other countries sounded an alarm, saying that rushing to offer the vaccine before Phase 3 trials — which normally last for months and involve tens of thousands of people — could backfire.

"Fast-tracked approval will not make Russia the leader in the (vaccine) race, it will just expose consumers of the vaccine to unnecessary danger," Russia's Association of Clinical Trials Organizations said Monday, urging government officials to postpone clearing the vaccine without completed advanced trials.

The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- the common cold-causing adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a way to prime the body to recognize if a real COVID-19

infection comes along.

That's similar to vaccines being developed by China's CanSino Biologics and Britain's Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

Advanced clinical trials are set to start Wednesday, Kirill Dmitriev, chief executive of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, told reporters. The fund bankrolled the development of the vaccine.

The trials study will span several countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and possibly Brazil, and involve "several thousand people," Dmitriev said. In the meantime, the vaccine will be offered to tens of thousands of people who volunteer to be vaccinated.

In the meantime, the vaccine will be offered to tens of thousands of people. Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said the vaccination of doctors could start as ear-

ly as this month. Russian authorities have said that medical workers, teachers and other risk groups will be the first to undergo vaccination.

According to officials, large-scale production of the vaccine will start in September, and mass vaccination may begin as early as October.

"We expect tens of thousands of volunteers to be vaccinated within the next months," Dmitriev said. "So people outside of clinical trials will have access to the vaccine in August, and some, already on the massive scale, in October."

The Gamaleya Institute's director, Alexander Gintsburg, said that initially there will be only enough doses to give the vaccine in 10 to 15 of Russia's 85 regions, according to the Interfax news agency.

The Associated Press couldn't find documentation in the Russian Health

Ministry's records indicating that permission to start the advanced trials was granted. The ministry has not responded to a request for comment.

The World Health Organization's list of vaccine candidates undergoing human testing still lists the Gamaleya product as in preliminary safety trials, which involve giving a low dose to a small number of people.

President Putin said one of his daughters has received two shots of the vaccine. "She has taken part in the experiment," the Russian leader said, adding that she had minor side effects, such as slight fever, and is now "feeling well and has high number of antibodies."

The Health Ministry said in a statement Tuesday that the vaccine is expected to provide immunity from the coronavirus for up to two years, citing "(prior) experience of using vector vaccines

with the two-shot scheme of administration".

However, as Russia has not yet published any scientific data from its first clinical trials, scientists both at home and abroad find these assurances hardly convincing. No vaccines have ever been developed for any coronavirus, including SARS and MERS, and new immunizations typically take years to develop.

"The collateral damage from release of any vaccine that was less than safe and effective would exacerbate our current problems insurmountably," Imperial College London immunology professor Danny Altmann said in a statement Tuesday.

Russia has so far registered 897,599 coronavirus cases, including 15,131 deaths. When the pandemic struck Russia, Putin ordered state officials to shorten the time of clinical trials for potential coronavirus vaccines.

# No new progress on possible relief package

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Nancy Pelosi is not about to blink.

The Democratic leader has been here before, negotiating a deal with the White House to save the U.S. economy, and lessons from the Great Recession are now punctuating the coronavirus talks. With Republicans again balking at big government bailouts, the Democrats believe they have the leverage, forcing President Donald Trump into a politically risky standoff over help for millions of Americans.

"It's impossible to know whether she has overplayed her hand until we see if there is a COVID package," says Michael Steel, a former top aide to then-Speaker John Boehner.

Monday brought no new talks between Trump's team and negotiators on Capitol Hill as the president tries a go-it-alone strategy. Over the weekend, he launched a series of executive actions that give the appearance of a

White House taking charge but may end up providing little help for ordinary Americans.

The president's orders seek to reverse the devastating fallout from unemployment assistance, eviction protections and other aid that has expired. But there are limits, and legal pitfalls, in trying to make an end run around the legislative branch.

Pelosi dismissed Trump's proposals Monday as an "illusion" in an interview on MSNBC.

Trump acknowledged he's still quite open to a deal with Congress. "So now Schumer and Pelosi want to meet to make a deal. Amazing how it all works, isn't it," he tweeted Monday. "They know my phone number."

With Trump now having played his hand, however, Democrats appear in no rush to show theirs.

It will take days, if not weeks, to sort out what Trump intended with his executive actions, as guidance from the administra-

tion is sent to the states. Already, the Department of Labor is telling governors that Trump's promised \$400 weekly jobless benefit boost will actually amount to just \$300 if states are unable to provide the rest, according to information obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer dismissed the Trump's administrative actions as "all sizzle and no steak," held together by "spit and glue."

In the meantime, countless Americans are already feeling the squeeze. What had been a \$600 weekly unemployment benefit boost is gone, as are federal eviction protections. Schools that had been eyeing federal help now face the prospect of reopening on shoestring budgets.

The virus shows no signs of easing, with more than 5 million infections and 160,000 deaths nationwide and stark new evidence that many Americans' jobs may never

return. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, on a conference call with governors on Monday, said action by Congress remains the administration's "first choice."

Mnuchin and Vice President Mike Pence urged the governors to reach out to congressional leaders and push for legislation, according to audio of the call obtained by AP.

"Anytime they want to meet — and they're willing to negotiate and have a new proposal — we're more than happy to meet," Mnuchin said later at the White House. He confirmed he has not spoken to the Democratic leaders since talks collapsed Friday.

Pelosi has been here before, at the start of the last recession, when George W. Bush's Treasury Secretary

Hank Paulson dropped to a knee at the White House and all but begged her not to let a financial rescue plan fail in Congress.

Democrats provided the bulk of the votes in 2008 for Bush's bank bailout and, with the majority in both the House and Senate, they also approved President Barack Obama's economic recovery plan in 2009. They often see that era as mopping up after a Republican president.

Now, facing a far greater crisis — the raging virus and economic shutdown — Pelosi is standing firm.

She told The Associated Press earlier this year that Mnuchin is a "good listener" and they have a good rapport, having negotiated a relief package in March.

But she said, "When President Bush was president he would say to me, 'Secretary Paulson speaks

for me.' This case, I don't - I'm not sure."

Negotiations over the latest coronavirus bill shifted with the arrival of Mark Meadows, the president's new chief of staff, a conservative former head of the House Freedom Caucus who is widely seen as a counter-force to Mnuchin.

During days of closed-door talks, Meadows often declares one issue after another a "nonstarter," according to an aide granted anonymity to discuss the private sessions.

Another aide said both Meadows and Mnuchin used that phrase several times as they pushed back against the Democratic proposals.

Pelosi has said repeatedly that Trump and the Republicans don't grasp the gravity of the situation facing the nation.

# GOP ramps up effort to monitor voting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Since 1937, the state of Pennsylvania has had strict rules about who can stand in polling stations and challenge the eligibility of voters. The restrictions are meant to limit the use of "poll monitors" long sent by both parties to look out for voting mishaps but at times used to intimidate voters.

In June, the Republican National Committee and the Trump campaign sued to ease those rules, saying they imposed arbitrary limits on the party's ability to keep tabs on the voting process no matter where it occurs.

The Pennsylvania lawsuit over an obscure slice of election law is just one piece of the party's sweeping plan to expand poll monitoring this election year. Thanks to a federal court ruling that freed the party from restrictions, the GOP is mounting a broad effort to keep a close watch on who casts ballots.

The GOP is recruiting 50,000 monitors, typically party activists and specially appointed volunteers, across 15 battleground states. Meanwhile, the party has filed, or intervened in, lawsuits challenging election rules across the country, including cases in battleground states like Nevada, Wisconsin and Florida over laws related to

absentee ballots and voting by mail.

Republicans say they are focused on preventing the fraud they have long maintained, without evidence, is rampant in U.S. elections. Democrats and voting rights groups fear the planned influx of poll watchers under the imprimatur of the RNC is a veiled effort to suppress Democratic turnout, particularly in minority communities.

The issue is especially contentious for two parties already clashing over how to protect the right to vote during a pandemic. As election officials prepare for an unprecedented surge of mailed ballots, both parties are gearing up for the possibility of protracted legal battles over how those votes are tallied, giving new weight to the question of who can monitor the count.

"By and large, these kinds of ballot security operations, especially in a heated partisan and polarizing environment and with the emotions surrounding elections — they risk crossing lines, causing disruptions," said Wendy Weiser, who directs the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice.

Republicans say the monitors they're recruiting will receive training to ensure they follow state laws.

The real reason Democrats are objecting is because Republicans know that "the playing field has been leveled," said RNC spokesperson Mandi Merritt.

"We can do what Democrats and other Republican groups have been able to do for decades," Merritt said in a statement. "This is about getting more people to vote, certainly not less."

Democrats say they, too, have spent millions of dollars building up staff. They say the goal on their side is to support voters who need questions answered and to combat what they say is a misinformation campaign aimed at suppressing turnout.

Former Vice President Joe Biden told those attending a July fundraiser that his campaign has 600 attorneys and 10,000 volunteers ready to ensure voters can cast ballots.

Traditionally, poll watchers monitor polling locations and can alert campaigns and party lawyers about perceived irregularities, including people being unfairly blocked from voting, identification laws not being followed or poor signage. In some states, citizen observers can lodge challenges against individual voters, kicking ballots to a review board or forcing them to be counted provisionally until the complaint is settled.

## DEAR ABBY By Abigail Van Buren

### Cellphone records suggest wife's affair may not be over

**DEAR ABBY:** I found out a year ago that my wife of eight years had an affair for three years with my best friend. Two months ago I realized she is still contacting him. I found out because I went through her cell records. She said she was just texting him about how he ruined our life. Now I have no access to them, and I suspect she's using a text app so I won't know. She keeps her phone with her all the time.

I can't live like this, and I don't know what to do. I always let her do what she wanted and never had a concern before this. I was always laid-back, but now I can't stop thinking she is up to no good. How do I approach this with her? We have been to counseling. Every time I bring up her affair, she says our marriage will never work because of trust issues, and I agree. Please help. -- OUT OF CHANCES IN FLORIDA

**DEAR OUT:** Your wife and best friend betrayed you, so your trust issues are well-founded. If she would like to stay married to you, she should not be hiding her cellphone and texts from you. If she's unwilling to cooperate, then what she said is 100% correct -- your marriage WILL never work, and your next step should be to talk to an attorney.

**DEAR ABBY:** I had a baby a year ago. I'm 46, and my son's father just turned 50. We are looking to buy a house, but I am conflicted. We are not married, and it will be my money that we use for the down payment. I have expressed that I would like to be married before we buy the house, but nothing has happened. I have brought the subject up several times, but I now feel really nervous about his not following through. How should I proceed from here? -- DOWN PAYMENT DILEMMA IN NEW YORK

**DEAR D.P.D.:** That the father of your baby keeps "forgetting" to address the fact that you want to be married is a red flag. It appears he is unwilling to make

that commitment. Before moving forward with buying property with someone who is reluctant to make a commitment, it is extremely important that you discuss this with a lawyer. An attorney can help to ensure your financial interests will be protected. Until you have done that, keep your checkbook firmly CLOSED.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am about to be married to a wonderful man who has three teenagers from a previous marriage. His boys are 18 and 16, and his daughter is also 16. They have TERRIBLE table manners, which seem to be encouraged by their grandfather. My fiancé has spoken to his dad regarding the unacceptable behavior, yet it continues.

When my fiancé tries to enforce common table etiquette, the children ask why the change. Table manners were not part of their upbringing, and they don't see the importance. How do I -- or should I -- attempt to undo 18 years of poor habits? -- EMBARRASSED AT THE TABLE

**DEAR EMBARRASSED:** Table manners ARE important. They reveal a lot about someone's upbringing or lack of it. Not knowing the basics can negatively affect not only a person's social life, but also his or her career. You would be doing those young people a huge favor if you speak up and support your fiancé in this.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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# Early starters post low scores at Amateur

**JOHN GUNTHER**  
 The World

**BANDON** — Taking advantage of morning tee times, several college players posted great scores on the opening day of the 120th U.S. Amateur at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort on Monday. McClure Meissner of Texas had an 8-under 64 on the Bandon Dunes course and Aman Gupta of North Carolina had a 7-under 64 at Bandon Trails as both positioned themselves for potential high seeds when the top 64 players begin the match play portion of the event Wednesday. First they have to navigate likely afternoon winds Tuesday, when the 264 players switch courses for the second qualifying round.

Gupta wasn't in the tournament until Ricky Castillo, the No. 2-ranked amateur in the world, pulled out Friday. The Oklahoma State player made the most of the opportunity with seven birdies in an eight-hole stretch on the front nine to break the Bandon Trails competitive course record. He played the back nine in even par to post the only bogey-free round on either course Monday.

"Anyone with a 7:30 (a.m.), 7 (a.m.) tee time definitely has an advantage this week because we didn't have to deal with hardly any wind until I want to say our 14th hole," Gupta said in an interview with the USGA. "So it was definitely quite an advantage to go in the morning and make some birdies before the wind started picking up."

The Bandon Trails course record of 66 had been held by

former USA Walker Cup team member Chris Williams and Kevin Lim.

Meissner, who plays for Southern Methodist University, was one shot off the course record at Bandon Dunes, held by Bob Rannow of Florence. He finished his round with three birdies on his last four holes.

"I got out there early and made some putts," he said. "I got off to a hot start and then hit it really well all day. I think I only missed one or two greens. I just gave myself good looks all day."

"We were fortunate that they moved up a couple of (tee) boxes on a couple of par-threes. They could have made it extremely hard on those holes, but they were nice."

The par-3s still were anything but easy at Bandon Dunes. The 15th played as the third hardest hole of the day (behind a pair of par-4s that play directly into the wind — the difficult fifth and 11th), while the sixth played as the fourth and the 12th played as the fifth. They all averaged about a half stroke over par for the 132 golfers who were on the Bandon Dunes course Monday.

At Bandon Trails, the closing stretch with four straight holes into the wind was tough on the field. The 15th was the hardest hole on the day, followed by the 17th and 18th, all averaging at least a half stroke over par. The uphill par-5 16th ranked fifth with an average of 5.462 strokes.

The two courses played nearly to the same average for the day (75.583 at Bandon Dunes and 75.598 at Bandon Trails).

Travis McInroe, another Texas golfer and student at Baylor Uni-



John Gunther, The World

The tee marker shows the yardage for the 10th hole at Bandon Dunes last week. The second day of qualifying for the U.S. Amateur is Tuesday on the Bandon Dunes and Bandon Trails courses.

versity, shot a 7-under 65 at Bandon Dunes while Hunter Wolcott, who graduated from the University of Tennessee this year, shot a 5-under 66 at Bandon Trails.

None of the players in the tournament are from the state of Oregon, but two play for Oregon State University and both had morning tee times with mixed results.

Spencer Tibbitts of Vancouver, Wash., had the honor of hitting the first shot at 7 a.m. at Bandon Dunes and went on to post a 2-under 70.

"It was really cool," Tibbitts said of the honor. "I've gotten to play here quite a bit over the years. It was a neat experience."

But Carson Barry, of Eagle, Idaho, shot a 4-over 75 at Bandon Trails and will have a lot of work to do to make it into the top 64 and reach match play. Barry, one of a number of players in the tournament who were in the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship at the resort last summer, has company among well-known players needing to make up ground to make it to match play.

Defending champion Andy Ogletree shot a 3-over 74 at Bandon Trails, the same score as Walker Cup teammate Cole Hammer. Stewart Hagestad, another Walker Cup player and another player from the tourna-

ment last year, shot a 2-over 73 at Bandon Trails.

John Augenstein, who finished second to Ogletree last year and also was on the Walker Cup team, shot a 2-under 70 at Bandon Dunes.

Playing in the morning was a big advantage since the winds picked up to 30 mph in the afternoon. The best rounds among golfers in the afternoon wave were scores of 68 by David Perkins and Philip Barbaree, the 2015 U.S. Junior Amateur champion, who both were playing Bandon Trails.

For complete scoring, pictures, highlights and quotes from the first round, visit [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

# Portland, Orlando City meet for MLS is Back title

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — In a year like no other, this will be a championship like no other.

Orlando City and Portland will meet in the MLS is Back tournament finale Tuesday night, with the winner hoisting a trophy less than 24 hours before the league resumes its revised regular season in home markets.

It's a strange situation, for sure, but given how the sports world unraveled and changed in 2020, it might just be a fitting end to an event that set a Guinness World Record for being the largest single-location soccer tournament. The World Cup-style format included 51 matches over 45 days at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex at Disney World.

The tournament nearly got derailed early, with Nashville and Dallas having to withdraw because of numerous positive COVID-19 tests, but there have been no coronavirus setbacks since. Just entertaining soccer.

Orlando and Portland emerged as the best of the bunch, both relying on staunch defense to get to the championship match.

"Defenders, sometimes, they don't get the credit when you're winning games," said Orlando coach Oscar Pareja, whose team hasn't allowed more than one goal in any tournament game. "Normally we focus on the spectacular part of the game, and that's great. ... If the team keeps defending in that manner, I think we'll have a bigger chance to win."

## Kathryn Nesbitt will make history during final tonight

**ANNE M. PETERSON**  
 Associated Press

When the Portland Timbers play Orlando City in the MLS is Back tournament championship on Tuesday night, assistant referee Kathryn Nesbitt will become the first woman to work a Major League Soccer title game.

Nesbitt and Felisha Mariscal are the only two women among more than 40 officials that have been sequestered — just like the teams — in Florida for the monthlong tournament.

"We all came into this tournament under really unusual circumstances," Nesbitt said. "I think that the entire referee group here worked incredibly hard to have strong performances and to be named to the final means that you've had a strong performance and really shown what you're worth here. So it's honestly a huge honor to have made it this far and to be on the field for that final game."

The title match is certainly no chance assignment for Nesbitt. She's earned her way there having officiated in some 60 MLS matches since her first in 2015. And it's not just MLS, she was also a referee for the Women's World Cup last year in France.

Nesbitt counts her World Cup debut, in a group-stage match between the Norway and Nigeria in Reims, as one of her favorite career moments.

"Just kind of lining up there with the teams and preparing to walk out on the field: For me, that was my greatest accomplishment and basically a dream come true," she said.

Nesbitt was a chemistry professor at Towson

University before she decided last year to focus on refereeing in advance of the World Cup. She was one of three U.S. women chosen for the coveted job, joining Mariscal and NWSL referee Katja Koroleva. It was the first senior international event for all three.

She said the so-called bubble for the MLS is Back tournament, at the ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World, is similar to working at a World Cup or other big tournament. Days are spent with her colleagues, at on-field training as well as watching film, all in preparation for game time.

"It's been really interesting. I think that we're all pretty used to it and in a pretty good rhythm at this point," she said. "It's been actually comfortable here. We've all felt incredibly safe. I've been so grateful to have opportunities to train, to have this whole time to work with my colleagues."

MLS has had women officiating in its games since 1998, when Nancy Lay and Sandra Hunt worked their first games. Lay was an elementary school teacher.

But for the most part women in Nesbitt's position are still rare.

Nesbitt, who was also the first woman to officiate in an MLS postseason match, understands the responsibility she has as an example for women currently in her field and those who aspire to become referees.

"I like to think that there are some referees out there that look up to me," she said. "And I'm I'm really hopeful that I'm putting out a good example and emanating qualities that other officials hope to achieve someday."

Orlando is a surprise finalist in its sixth MLS season with its fourth head coach. Pareja replaced James O'Connor after last year and has taken the Lions

to new heights. Players have clearly defined roles in a scheme that plays out of the back and keep finding good results in close games.

Nani has been the offensive key. The 33-year-old Portuguese midfielder scored the winner in Orlando's tournament opener and found the net twice in a 3-1

Wrestling's territory of Louisiana and Texas. He was managed by Skandor Akbar and a masked man named Friday, who tried to control the wrestler's behavior.

He'd chop opponents and often pretended to bite their faces. His finishing move, the "splash," consisted of him running full speed at a downed foe while jumping in the air with his hands extended and landing on the opponent's back. The move left opponents

immobile for an easy pin.

Harris would later join the WWE and face Hulk Hogan, Jake "The Snake" Robert and the Undertaker.

# Pro wrestling star James 'Kalmala' Harris dies from COVID-19

ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Harris, a Mississippi-born sharecropper who gained international fame as "Kamala the Ugandan Giant," a massive professional wrestler who buried opponents with his trademark "splash," has died.

World Wrestling Entertainment confirmed his death in a statement Sunday.

Kenny Casanova, who co-

wrote Harris' autobiography, wrote on social media that Harris died from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. He was 70.

In recent years, Harris suffered from many health ailments, including having both legs amputated because of diabetes.

Born in Senatobia, Mississippi, the 6-foot-7-inch (2-meter), nearly 400-pound (181-kilogram) Harris began his wrestling career

as Sugar Bear Harris and under other names but wasn't considered successful in the ring. It wasn't until a promoter suggested the Kamala gimmick loosely based on Ugandan dictator Idi Amin that his career took a turn.

Walking into the ring with body and face paint and a spear, Kamala would headline cards against babyface wrestlers like the Junkyard Dog, Andre the Giant, and Hacksaw Butch Reed in Mid-South

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Critics charged that the character of Kamala was based on racial stereotypes as wrestling announcers often used such terms as "savage" and "beast."

In interviews later in life, Harris said he found the gimmick fun and meant no harm.

