



Taunts overpower visions in debate

CLEVELAND (AP) — The first debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden deteriorated into bitter taunts and near chaos Tuesday night as Trump repeatedly interrupted his opponent with angry — and personal — jabs that sometimes overshadowed the sharply different visions each man has for a nation facing historic crises.

In the most tumultuous presidential debate in recent memory, Trump refused to condemn white

supremacists who have supported him, telling one such group known as Proud Boys to “stand back, stand by.” There were also heated clashes over the president’s handling of the pandemic, the integrity of the election results, deeply personal attacks about Biden’s family and how the Supreme Court will shape the future of the nation’s health care.

But it was the belligerent tone that was persistent, somehow fitting for what has been an extraordinarily ugly campaign. The

two men frequently talked over each other with Trump interrupting, nearly shouting, so often that Biden eventually snapped at him, “Will you shut up, man?”

“The fact is that everything he’s saying so far is simply a lie,” Biden said. “I’m not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he’s a liar.”

The presidential race has been remarkably stable for weeks, despite the historic crises that have battered the country this year, including a pandemic that

has killed more than 200,000 Americans and a reckoning over race and police brutality. With just five weeks until Election Day and voting already underway in some key states, Biden has maintained a lead in national polls and in many battlegrounds.

It’s unclear whether the debate will do much to change those dynamics.

Over and over, Trump tried to control the conversation, interrupting Biden and repeatedly talking over the moderator, Chris

Wallace of Fox News. The president tried to deflect tough lines of questioning — whether on his taxes or the pandemic — to deliver broadsides against Biden.

The president drew a lecture from Wallace, who pleaded with both men to stop talking over each other. Biden tried to push back against Trump, sometimes looking right at the camera to directly address viewers rather than the president and snapping, “It’s hard to get a word in with

Please see **Debate**, Page 5



Workers from Patrick Myers Tree Service remove a Monterey pine from Mingus Park on Tuesday afternoon.

Amy Moss Strong Photos, The World

Tree removal at Mingus Park

AMY MOSS STRONG
The World

COOS BAY — A Monterey pine is being removed from Mingus Park by Patrick Myers Tree Service, a task that took most of two days to complete and should be done by Wednesday afternoon.

The stately pine, estimated to be 55 years old and 90 feet tall, was located near the park’s picnic shelter. On May 19, a certified arborist assessed the tree and determined it was infested with turpentine beetles, in poor health and would be a continually increasing safety hazard.

City of Coos Bay Public Works Administrator Randy Dixon said the infestation occurred from extirpation from pine pitch canker caused by *Fusarium circinatum*, a fungal disease native to the southeast United States and found (in 1986) to have been introduced to California.

“When trees begin to die of the disease, they attract bark beetles, which provide a pathway for infection and ultimately the health of the tree,” Dixon said in an email.

A wind storm could cause any of the large branches to fall and cause damage to property or



A 55-year-old Monterey pine is removed from Mingus Park.

injury to people, city workers at Mingus Park said Tuesday.

The removal of the tree required the use of heavy equipment and several workers from Patrick Myers Tree Service. A crane truck was used to move the larger branches and the trunk. Park walkers and others stopped to watch the process.

“Typically the city donates wood from trees it removes

on city property to the local Salvation Army, which is then split and delivered to the less fortunate folks in our community as a heat source,” Dixon wrote. “However, this Monterey pine is deceased and infected with beetles and we do not want to spread the beetle. Patrick Myers is tasked with removal.”

Monterey pines typically have an average life span of 80 to 90

years. They are the most rapid growing pine of over 90 species that occur in the world. Young trees can grow up to 6.5 feet per year, generally reaching from 39 to 59 feet within 25 years.

Land for Mingus Park was acquired through donations from the Perham Park Company and Joseph F. Williams in 1925. Additional land was purchased in

Please see **Trees**, Page 5

Virus rising among children as schools reopen

(AP) - After preying heavily on the elderly in the spring, the coronavirus is increasingly infecting American children and teens in a trend authorities say appears fueled by school reopenings and the resumption of sports, playdates and other activities.

Children of all ages now make up 10% of all U.S. cases, up from 2% in April, the American Academy of Pediatrics reported Tuesday. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that the incidence of COVID-19 in school-age children began rising in early September as many youngsters

returned to their classrooms.

About two times more teens were infected than younger children, the CDC report said. Most infected children have mild cases; hospitalizations and death rates are much lower than in adults.

Dr. Sally Goza, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said the rising numbers are a big concern and underscore the importance of masks, hand-washing, social distancing and other precautions.

“While children generally don’t get as sick with the coronavirus as adults, they are not immune and there is much to

learn about how easily they can transmit it to others,” she said in a statement.

The CDC report did not indicate where or how the children became infected.

Public health experts say the uptick probably reflects increasing spread of the virus in the larger community. While many districts require masks and other precautions, some spread in schools is thought to be occurring, too. But experts also say many school-age children who are getting sick may not be getting infected in classrooms.

Just as cases in college students have been linked to par-

tying and bars, school children may be contracting the virus at playdates, sleepovers, sports and other activities where precautions aren’t being taken, said Dr. Leana Wen, a public health specialist at George Washington University.

“Understandably, there is quarantine fatigue,” Wen said. Many people have a sense that if schools are reopening, then other activities can resume too, “but actually the opposite is true.”

Global school studies suggest in-person learning can be safe when transmission rates in the larger community are low, the

Please see **School**, Page 5

299 new COVID-19 cases, 8 new deaths

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed eight more lives in Oregon, raising the state’s death toll to 555, the Oregon Health Authority reported Tuesday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 299 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 33,291. The new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported today are in the following counties: Baker (1), Benton (8), Clackamas (28), Clatsop (2), Columbia (3), Coos (1), Crook (1), Deschutes (7), Douglas (7), Jackson (11), Jefferson (4), Josephine (5), Klamath (10), Lane (32), Linn (4), Malheur (9), Marion (49), Morrow (4), Multnomah (52), Polk (3), Umatilla (11), Wallowa (1), Washington (41), and Yamhill (5).

Oregon’s 548th COVID-19 death is a 96-year-old woman in Clackamas County who tested positive on Sept. 9 and died on Sept. 17 in her residence. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 549th COVID-19 death is a 95-year-old woman in Multnomah County who tested positive on July 3 and died on Sept. 3 in her residence. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 550th COVID-19 death is an 81-year-old man in Malheur County who tested positive on Aug. 31 and died on Sept. 20 in his residence. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 551st COVID-19 death is a 67-year-old man in Malheur County who tested positive on Sept. 9 and died on Sept. 27 at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 552nd COVID-19 death is a 68-year-old man in Malheur County who tested positive on Sept. 5 and died on Sept. 25 at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon’s 553rd COVID-19 death is a 96-year-old woman in Yamhill County who tested positive on July 30 and died on Aug. 18 at Salem Hospital. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 554th COVID-19 death is a 57-year-old man in Marion County who tested positive on Aug. 19 and died on Sept. 11 at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 555th COVID-19 death is a 66-year-old man in Multnomah County who tested positive on Sept. 10 and died on Sept. 22 at Portland Adventist Medical Center. 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.

Coos Bay Halloween events on hold

The World

COOS BAY — In the midst of a deadly pandemic, yet another tradition is on hold this year.

The Coos Bay Downtown Association announced last week that it is canceling its annual Trick-or-Treat and Trunk-or-Treat events originally planned for Oct. 30.

The event has been running for almost 30 years, and sees up to 600 trick-or-treaters a year, according to CBDA Director Holly Boardman. Just over 100 businesses are typically involved, too.

“We understand everyone’s disappointment, and we’re disappointed too,” Boardman said. “But we

need to go by the CDC guidelines.”

The cancellation comes on the heels of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for Halloween activities.

Those recommendations: Traditional trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treat events and crowded costume are all too spooky for a pandemic. Indoor haunted houses, hayrides with strangers and traveling to rural fall festivals are all on the “higher risk” list, too.

“Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses,” the CDC says. “There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween.”

Pumpkin carving, decorating and virtual costume contests are all safe ideas, according to the CDC. In general, as has become the norm, any activity that puts people in close contact with others from outside their home presents a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus and falling ill or passing it on to loved ones.

The CBDA hopes to hold the event next year, Boardman said.

The CDC has a full list of recommendations for celebrating Halloween, Día de los Muertos and Thanksgiving online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html.



World file photo by Ed Glazar
Throng of sugar seekers trick or treat during the 2019 annual Halloween festivities in downtown Coos Bay.

Oregon recognized as leader in efforts to stem climate changes

The World

SALEM — Oregon again was recognized as a leader in efforts to stem climate change and ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH).

The legislatively created Oregon Coordinating Council on OAH recently was recognized for its efforts to guide Oregon’s response to ocean change and OAH. The Coordinating Council received an Honorable Mention for the 2020 Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources.

ODFW’s Dr. Caren Braby and OSU’s Dr. Jack Barth lead the Coordinating Council.

The award, given by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, recognizes the Coordinating Council’s exemplary leadership in reducing climate related threats through developing and carrying out the 2019-2025 OAH Action Plan.

Hypoxia (low oxygen) occurs when deeper ocean waters with less oxygen rise and are pushed closer to the shore. This happens more frequently than normal due to climate changes that heat the land and ocean waters and change normal wind patterns. Ocean

acidification is caused when carbon dioxide from the atmosphere enters the ocean and chemically reacts with ocean water, making the oceans more acidic (lowering the pH).

“Oregon is a hotspot for OAH,” Barth said. “Oregon’s coastlines naturally experience some low oxygen and more acidic waters from ocean upwelling (old deep water which is pushed nearshore by ocean currents). However, combined with increasingly more human-produced carbon dioxide being absorbed by the ocean and intensifying global warming, we have the perfect storm.”

Oregon was one of the first states to experience impacts of OAH (changes in ocean acidity) and oxygen levels. In the early 2000’s the Pacific Northwest oyster hatchery production collapsed due to acidification, and the fishing fleet began pulling pots full of dead Dungeness crab during hypoxic conditions. Shellfish are particularly vulnerable to OAH and are also the bread and butter of Oregon’s commercial seafood industry, bringing over \$100 million annually into coastal communities.

OAH poses serious threats to Oregon’s marine resources and the coastal

economies that depend on them.

Governor Brown recognized these threats and called for the OAH Action Plan to guide efforts to address them. The Governor also submitted the Action Plan to the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia. Oregon’s plan can now serve as a model for governments around the world.

“Our ocean resources are a source of state pride, they fuel coastal tourism, the seafood industry, sport fisheries, and are iconic to being an Oregonian,” Braby said. “These are all at risk from climate and ocean change, and carbon dioxide management is needed to help reduce those risks. Every Oregonian can help by remembering the natural ecosystem in their societal choices.”

Through public meetings, reports to the legislature, and outreach activities outlined in the Action Plan, the Coordinating Council is a source of information on and is raising awareness about OAH. Elements of the plan clearly show how local actions are meaningful in fighting the global challenges of climate and ocean changes and how partners are needed for Oregon’s long-term resilience.

Oregon’s unemployment rates drops to 7.7 percent in August

The World

PORTLAND — Oregon’s unemployment rate dropped to 7.7 percent in August from 10.4 percent in July, according to a press release from the Oregon Employment Department. The unemployment rate was more than double last year’s rate of 3.6 percent in August 2019. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 8.4 percent in August from 10.2 percent in July.

Oregon’s total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 11,300 jobs in August, following a revised gain of 17,700 jobs in July. Over the past four months, employers added back 41 percent of the jobs that were cut in March and April, stated the release.

Over-the-month job gains in August were largest in leisure and hospitality (+4,200 jobs); retail trade (+3,300); construction (+3,200); and government (+3,000). Two industries cut a substantial number of jobs in August:

wholesale trade (-1,400 jobs) and health care and social assistance (-1,400).

Leisure and hospitality — which includes restaurants, drinking establishments, hotels and recreational industries — has added back the most jobs of any of the major industries over the past four months. Despite adding 63,200 jobs during the past four months, leisure and hospitality is only a little over halfway back to its February 2020 peak employment level, prior to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Retail trade has bounced back closer to its recent peak employment level. It added 16,100 jobs over the past four months, which was nearly three-quarters of the jobs lost earlier in the year.

The third industry to add back more than half of its jobs lost, while also rebounding by more than 10,000 jobs, was health care and social assistance. This industry, despite a 1,400-job loss in August, added 18,000 jobs over the

past four months, regaining nearly two-thirds of its March and April job losses.

Not all industries have rebounded with substantial job growth over the past four months. In August, the following industries remained near their low point for the year: manufacturing, government, information, and professional and business services.

Wildfires impact

Devastating wildfires have ravaged workplaces, homes, communities, and more than 1 million acres of land across Oregon over the past couple of weeks. This release covers the Oregon employment situation in August. It does not capture the personal and economic disruption caused by these disasters.

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sept. 22, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

DEAR ABBY By Abigail Van Buren

Man uses family gas money to buy a birthday party tattoo

DEAR ABBY: My family just came back from a relative’s after a weekend visit. The occasion was a birthday party, and he had a tattoo artist come over. My boyfriend -- the father of our 14- and 3-year-olds -- spent our last \$100 and went ahead and got himself a tattoo! We aren’t rich, and we had to borrow money for gas to get home.

I think he is the most selfish person on the face of the planet, and I get mad at him for every other little thing now. I can’t imagine many adult men would do that to their partner. I know a few who would even say, “No, Honey, YOU get something. I can wait.” Is there any hope for mankind? -- MARK OF DISASTER IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MARK OF DISASTER: There is plenty of hope for mankind; for the father of your 14- and 3-year-olds, maybe not so much. Was he under the influence at that party, or does he make poor decisions about money often?

That tatt is now a constant reminder of your disappointment in him, so I hope it’s in a place where you don’t have to see it every day or night. You have my sympathy, but you chose this person as a life partner.

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been together for more than three decades, but their marriage has been strained for years. Still, they won’t pull the plug and call it quits. It’s making us kids (all in our 20s and out of the house) and our extended family confused and frustrated.

They still live under one roof, although they spend all of their time in separate parts of the house and communicate only through us kids.

They’re clearly miserable, but if any of us tries to speak to them about their toxic dynamic, each one blames the other.

Abby, I adore both of my parents, but they’re becoming shells of themselves. I know it’s not my business to step in, but something has to change. I can’t handle another tense holiday visit. What should I do? -- CONCERNED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONCERNED: You and your siblings should sit down with your parents and tell them the effect their toxic dynamic has had on you as a family. All of you should urge them to seek counseling from a licensed marriage and family therapist. Then cross your fingers and hope they are willing to follow through. However, if they aren’t and you can’t handle another tense holiday visit, I recommend you make other plans and tell them why.

DEAR ABBY: I am 13. Three years ago, I was in a car accident that left me in a wheelchair. I have been able to move on in life and am happy and have lots of friends who help me stay active in sports, etc. My problem is, I had a friend before my accident who moved away, and I’m sure he doesn’t know his once best friend can no longer walk.

I just heard his family is moving back here, and I’m not sure how to handle this. Should I contact him before the move, or wait and be like, “Oh, by the way”? Do you have any advice? -- WONDERING IN NEW YORK

DEAR WONDERING: The news is bound to be a shock. If you have this young man’s contact information, I vote for letting him know in advance about the accident. And while you’re at it, fill him in on what you have been doing since he left town.

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Southwestern offers first of Physics and Astronomy Virtual Lecture Series

The World

COOS BAY — Southwestern Oregon Community College welcomes Dr. Jason Hafner from Rice University in Houston, Texas to present at the first lecture of the college’s 2020-21 Physics and Astronomy Virtual Lecture series. Dr. Hafner is a physics, astronomy and chemistry professor who will discuss his biomedical research on nanotechnology applications and how it may apply to early diagnosis of medical conditions and other critical applications.

The lecture will take

place virtually at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, and will be available via Southwestern’s live stream at <https://livestream.com/swocc/physicsandastronomy2020-21>.

Dr. Hafner will present results analyzing lipid bilayer structures using spectral analysis of Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering enhanced using gold nanorods. SERS can detect minute quantities of substances based on their molecular vibrations. It has been widely pursued as a platform for label-free biological and chemical sensing, allowing for identification of minute

quantities of substances on the nanoscale.

To learn more about Dr. Hafner’s research visit his blog at <http://hafnerlab.blogs.rice.edu/>

The Physics and Astronomy Lecture Series is a presentation of the Physics and Engineering department at Southwestern, supported in part by the Southwestern Foundation. Media and interested community members can contact Dr. Aaron Coyner, Associate Professor of Physics at Southwestern, via phone at 541-294-5992 or via email at aaron.coyner@socc.edu for more information.

ARK Project work day is Oct. 3

The World

COOS BAY — Join the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, in beautifying the ARK Project to make the drop-in center a more

inviting place for children, homeless children, youth and their families to visit in their time of need.

Tasks will include removing sod and dirt to create a larger driveway, cutting ivy and blackberry vines, and laying ground fabric and gravel.

The ARK Project is located at 817 S. 19th St., Coos Bay, behind Marshfield High School, between the wood shop and the theater.

To register, contact Stacy Gulseth at 541-269-6652 or by email at stacyG@coos-bay.k12.or.us.

Airline workers brace for layoffs

DETROIT (AP) — The worries are growing for United Airlines flight attendant Jordy Comeaux.

In a few days, he'll be among roughly 40,000 airline workers whose jobs are likely to evaporate in an industry decimated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Unless Congress acts to help for a second time, United will furlough Comeaux on Thursday, cutting off his income and health insurance. Unemployment and the money made by his husband, a home health nurse, won't be enough to pay the bills including rent near Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

"I don't have enough, unfortunately, to get by," said Comeaux, 31, who has worked for United for four years. "No one knows what's going to come next and how to prepare."

Since the pandemic hit, thousands of flight attendants, baggage handlers, gate agents and others have been getting at least partial pay through \$25 billion in grants and loans to the nation's airlines. To receive the aid, companies agreed

not to lay off employees through Sept. 30. That "Payroll Support Program" helped many stay on, and keep health care and other benefits.

It all runs out on Thursday.

With air travel down about 70% from last year, many carriers including United and American say they'll be forced to cut jobs without additional aid. Delta and Southwest, two other big carriers, tapped private capital markets and say they'll avoid layoffs.

Industry analysts say fear of air travel and businesses keeping employees close to home have brought an unprecedented crisis to the industry, resulting in cataclysmic losses. The four largest U.S. airlines — Delta, United, American and Southwest — together lost \$10 billion in the second quarter alone.

Fewer airline passengers also means less demand for rental cars, hotels and restaurants. With demand for new planes down, airplane manufacturer Boeing has cut thousands of jobs. And with tourism down,

The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday it planned to lay off 28,000 workers in its parks division in California and Florida.

"To my understanding, this is the steepest demand shock for commercial aviation in human history," said Morningstar aviation analyst Burkett Huey.

The International Air Transport Association on Tuesday lowered its full-year traffic forecast. The trade group for airlines around the world now expects 2020 air travel to fall 66% from 2019, compared to its previous estimate of a 63% decline.

Airlines in Europe are expecting years of trouble and have acted quickly to cut jobs even as they get government rescue loans.

Germany's Lufthansa won a 9 billion-euro government bailout, but announced an additional round of cuts after a summer bump in vacation travel dwindled in September. The company has parked its jumbo jets and has plans to eliminate 22,000 full-time positions. British Airways parent company IAG has said it

would cut some 12,000 of its 42,000-person workforce.

In the U.S., Congress has been considering a second round of airline aid for weeks, but it's hung up in the debate over a larger national relief package. The Airlines for America trade group said a House proposal unveiled Monday raises some hope because Democrats and Republicans appear to be talking. Layoffs could be delayed if a deal is imminent.

Toni Valentine, 41, a United reservations agent in Detroit who has been with the airline for 15 years, has been told she'll be laid off this week. She has six children ranging in age from 2 to 22, and her husband can't work because he's recovering from a massive stroke.

"Knowing that I may not have insurance benefits, I feel like I have failed," she said on a conference call set up by the Machinists Union. "I'm the primary breadwinner in this family."

Before the pandemic, the airlines were thriving. Planes were full, profits

were fat and workers were getting big overtime checks. That helped Valentine, who said she worked 80 hours per week but still was barely making it after her husband's illness.

Now, her 19-year-old son has dropped out of college to help support the family, she said. "We're crying for help and no one is hearing," she said.

Tevita Uhatafe also was a big beneficiary of overtime pay, working 60 hours a week hauling baggage and loading airplanes for American Airlines in Dallas. He and his wife, who holds the same fleet service job, earned enough to buy a house and purchase a new car in January.

Then came the pandemic. Overtime went away. Uhatafe and his wife cut expenses and staggered their shifts so one could stay home to supervise remote learning for two sons and a niece.

But come Thursday, they both are likely to get only part-time hours, meaning their household income could be halved. "We can't afford our mortgage, our car payment, our other utilities," he said.

They also fear they won't be able to make health care copays and deductibles. They've looked for jobs, but in a market with high unemployment "there really isn't anything out there for us right now," Uhatafe said.

Allie Malis, an American Airlines flight attendant in Washington, D.C., also faces layoff Thursday. "At this point I don't have a Plan B," she said.

With early retirements and other incentives to quit, U.S. airlines have already shed about 45,000 jobs during the pandemic, or 48,000 including cargo carriers. Government figures are only available through July, however.

Compare that to the first six months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, when passenger and cargo airlines cut more than 90,000 jobs, and employment drifted lower for the next two years.

Two decades later, airline employment still had not fully recovered. Malis said American didn't hire any new flight attendants until 2013 because it was still calling back those who were laid off.

Biden releases taxes as contrast with Trump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden paid nearly \$288,000 in federal income taxes last year, according to returns he released just hours before his Tuesday night debate with President Donald Trump.

The move came following a report from The New York Times that Trump paid just \$750 in income taxes in 2016, the year he ran for president, and in 2017, his first year in the White House.

Biden and his wife, Jill, along with Biden's running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, released

their 2019 federal and state returns as the president contends with the political fallout from a series of Times reports about Trump's long-hidden tax returns. The Times also reported that Trump paid no income tax at all in 10 of the 15 years prior to 2017.

The Bidens' payment of \$287,693 to the federal government in 2019 showed a substantial drop from the \$1.5 million they paid in income taxes in 2018, reflecting a decline in Biden's book revenue, his decision to run for the presidency and his leave of absence from an academic post at

the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

After paying \$91,000 in 2016, Biden's last year as vice president in the Obama administration, the Bidens paid \$3.7 million to the government in 2017, largely because of income from book deals. Their latest return shows that the couple's adjusted gross earnings of \$985,233 came from his vacated Penn position, Jill Biden's community college teaching job and corporate entities that hold their speaking and writing payments.

Harris and her husband, attorney Douglas Emhoff,

paid \$1,185,628 in combined federal and state taxes on earnings of \$3,018,127.

The Biden campaign has moved aggressively to capitalize on the Times reports about Trump's tiny tax payments. The campaign released a media ad showing that nurses, firefighters and other working-class Americans pay far more in annual federal taxes than the \$750 Trump tax payments described by the Times.

Trump has denied the Times report, dismissing it as "fake news" at a press conference, but he has provided no evidence to refute it.

With the release of their 2019 returns, the Bidens have now made public 22 years of tax documents, dating back to the late 1990s, when he was a U.S. senator representing Delaware. Harris has released 15 years of tax returns dating to her stint as San Francisco district attorney.

Kate Bedingfield, a Biden deputy campaign manager, said the release of the documents shows "a historic level of transparency meant to give the American people faith, once again, that their leaders will look out for them and not their own bottom line."

Disney will lay off 28,000 at parks in California, Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Squeezed by limits on attendance at its theme parks and other restrictions due to the pandemic, The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday it planned to lay off 28,000 workers in its parks division in California and Florida.

Two-thirds of the planned layoffs involve part-time workers but they ranged from salaried employees to hourly workers, Disney officials said.

Disney's parks closed last spring as the pandemic started spreading in the U.S. The Florida parks reopened this summer, but the California parks have yet to reopen as the company awaits guidance from the state of California.

In a letter to employees, Josh D'Amaro, chairman of Disney Parks, Experience and Product, said California's "unwillingness to lift restrictions that would allow Disneyland to reopen" exacerbated the situation for the company.

D'Amaro said his management team had worked hard to try to avoid layoffs. They had cut expenses, suspended projects and modified operations but it wasn't enough given limits on the number of people allowed into the park because of social distancing restrictions and other pandemic-related measures, he said.

"As heartbreaking as it is to take this action, this is the only feasible

option we have in light of the prolonged impact of COVID-19 on our business, including limited capacity due to physical distancing requirements and the continued uncertainty regarding the duration of the pandemic," he said.

California's health secretary on Tuesday said the state was close to working out a way to have the theme parks reopen in a responsible way.

"We know that a number of Californians are eager and wondering when that is coming, and we're working with those industries to put out something that's thoughtful, allows us to maintain the rest of our framework in a strong way,

and really following those principles of slow and stringent to ensure those large activities are done responsibly," said Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of California Health and Human Services.

Disney officials said the company would provide severance packages for the employees, where appropriate, and also offer other services to help workers with job placement.

Officials with the union that represents the actors who play Disney characters at the theme parks said they were having conversations with Disney officials about how they would be impacted, according to Actors' Equity Association.

Officials with the Ser-

vice Trades Council Union, which represents 43,000 workers at Disney World in Florida, said they were having similar conversations.

"We were disappointed to learn that the Covid-19 crisis has led Disney to make the decision to layoff Cast Members," the coalition of six unions said in a statement.

About 950 workers from Unite Here Local 11 in California will be laid off starting Nov. 1, union leaders said.

Disney officials didn't offer a breakdown of the layoffs between the Florida and California operations. Walt Disney World in Florida has around 77,000 employees, while the Dis-

neyland Resort in California has more than 30,000 workers.

With its parks closed due to the pandemic in April, Disney furloughed up to 43,000 workers while still paying for their health insurance at its Florida resort. It brought many of them back after it reopened in July. Furloughed workers in California also received health benefits.

In a statement, U.S. Rep. Val Demings, a Democrat from Orlando, said the layoffs showed the need for more coronavirus-related relief from Congress.

"These layoffs show yet again how desperately that assistance is needed by American households and businesses," Demings said.

‘I am Woman’ singer Helen Reddy dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Helen Reddy, who shot to stardom in the 1970s with her rousing feminist anthem "I Am Woman" and recorded a string of other hits, has died. She was 78.

Reddy's children Traci and Jordan announced that the actor-singer died Tuesday in Los Angeles. "She was a wonderful Mother, Grandmother and a truly formidable woman," they said in a statement. "Our hearts are broken. But we take comfort in the knowledge that her voice will live on forever."

Reddy's 1971 version of "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" launched a decade-long string of Top 40 hits, three of which reached No. 1.

The Australian-born singer enjoyed a prolific career, appearing in "Airport 1975" as a singing nun and scoring several hits, including "Ain't No Way To Treat a Lady," "Delta

Dawn," "Angie Baby" and "You and Me Against the World."

In 1973 she won the best female vocal pop performance Grammy Award for "I Am Woman," quickly thanking her then-husband and others in her acceptance speech.

"I only have 10 seconds so I would like to thank everyone from Sony Capitol Records, I would like to think Jeff Wald because he makes my success possible and I would like to thank God because she makes everything possible," Reddy said, hoisting her Grammy in the air and leaving the stage to loud applause. She also performed the song at the ceremony.

"I Am Woman" would become her biggest hit, used in films and television series.

In a 2012 interview with The Associated Press, Reddy cited the gigantic success of "I Am Woman" as one of the reasons she

stepped out of public life.

"That was one of the reasons that I stopped singing, was when I was shown a modern American history high-school textbook, and a whole chapter on feminism and my name and my lyrics (were) in the book," she told the AP. "And I thought, 'Well, I'm part of history now. And how do I top that? I can't top that.' So, it was an easy withdrawal."

Reddy's death comes less than three weeks after the release of a biopic about her life called "I Am Woman."

The film's director, Unjoo Moon, said the film resulted in a seven-year friendship with Reddy.

"I will forever be grateful to Helen for teaching me so much about being an artist, a woman and a mother," she said in a statement. "She paved the way for so many and the lyrics that she wrote for 'I am Woman' changed my life forever like they have

done for so many other people and will continue to do for generations to come. She will always be a part of me and I will miss her enormously."

A performer since childhood, Reddy was part of a show-business family in Melbourne. She won a contest that brought her to the United States and launched her recording career, although she first had to overcome ideas about her sound.

"In my earlier days in Australia, I was considered to be more of a jazz singer," she told the AP in 1991. "When I won the contest that brought me to this country, one person said, 'The judges didn't feel you could have a recording career because you don't have a commercial sound.'"

Reddy retired from performing in the 1990s and returned to Australia, getting her degree in clinical hypnotherapy.

Oregon names new public health director

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Health Authority on Tuesday announced Rachael Banks as its new public health director.

She's held the same position in Oregon's most populous county since 2017, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Banks will be tasked with leading the state's public health division amid the coronavirus pandemic, while improving racial and ethnic inequalities. She starts Oct. 27 and is replacing Lillian Shirley, who had said she's retiring.

Banks is "a leader with professional acumen combined with lived and worked experience around promoting equity," Patrick Allen, director of the Oregon Health Authority, said in a statement.

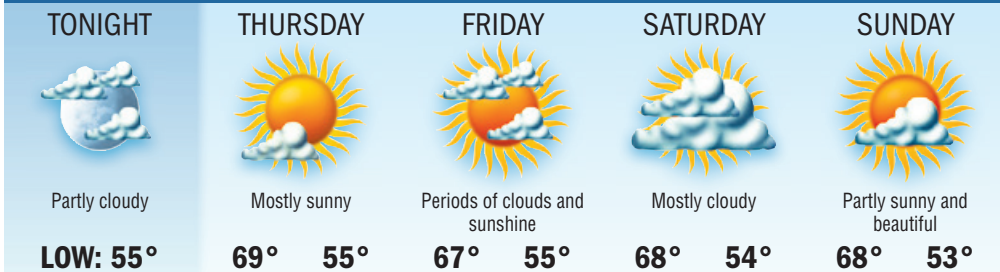
Allen called Banks' attributes necessary as the agency attempts to make "meaningful progress on

health equity while guiding the state's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic — and continuing to advance programs that promote the majority of health that happens outside the doctor's office, such as reducing chronic diseases, ensuring clean air and water, and urging immunizations."

Banks has led Multnomah County's response to the coronavirus including policy development, and leading the development of health metrics for Black, indigenous and people of color, according to the state.

Banks voiced strong opposition to the Oregon Health Authority's decision to publish data about coronavirus cases by ZIP code, warning of potential stereotyping from disclosure and saying the location of exposure is more important than where someone lives.

FOUR-DAY FORECAST FOR NORTH BEND



LOCAL ALMANAC

North Bend Tuesday

TEMPERATURE

High/low	81°/55°
Normal high/low	64°/48°
Record high	82° in 1947
Record low	39° in 2005

PRECIPITATION

Yesterday	0.00"
Year to date	29.39"
Last year to date	45.03"
Normal year to date	39.01"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	6:59 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:15 a.m.
Moonrise tomorrow	7:21 p.m.
Moonset tomorrow	6:52 a.m.



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

OREGON CITIES

City	Yesterday Hi/Lo	Prec.	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	83/58	0.00	70/57/s
Burns	86/30	0.00	86/38/s
Brookings	80/61	Trace	71/58/pc
Corvallis	84/45	0.00	85/52/s
Eugene	85/47	0.00	83/54/s
Klamath Falls	86/37	0.00	86/43/s
La Grande	81/39	0.00	83/43/s
Medford	98/55	0.00	96/57/s
Newport	86/64	0.00	65/54/s
Pendleton	84/46	0.00	85/53/s
Portland	86/56	0.00	84/58/s
Redmond	91/33	Trace	89/44/s
Roseburg	96/51	0.00	92/56/s
Salem	85/51	0.00	84/55/s
The Dalles	87/46	0.00	87/52/s

REGIONAL FORECASTS

South Coast	Curry Co. Coast	Rogue Valley	Willamette Valley	Portland Area	North Coast	Central Oregon
Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.	Tonight Thu.
57° 71°	59° 72°	57° 96°	53° 83°	57° 84°	55° 70°	45° 89°

Trees

From Page 1

later years. Originally the park was called Marshfield City Park and in 1937 the Parks Commission passed a resolution changing the name to Mingus Park in honor of local resident Dr. Everett Mingus. As chair of the Parks Commission, Dr. Mingus was instrumental in the park's development.

City records indicate the grading plan for Mingus Park commenced in 1933, a topographic map was created in 1937 showing topography around the lake, Dixon wrote. Actual park development started sometime after 1940, Herchell Webber, landscape architect, provided a site plan for lower and upper Mingus Park, which included at the time these site amenities for lower park: tennis court, softball field and play area, wading pool, croquet, restrooms, canoe shelter. In upper

lake area; picnic area, rock garden (Choshi), outdoor theater (now the swimming pool area), overlook, Boy and Girl Scout cabin, parking and trails.

Regarding Monterey pines, there is a historic Monterey pine that was planted in Shore Acres State Park between 1906 and 1921 by the Simpson family as part of their extensive estate. Louis J. Simpson was a lumberman, shipbuilder and founder of the city of North Bend. In 1942, Simpson sold his estate to Oregon, designating it as a park. The tree was recognized in 2002 as the largest of its species in the United States by the National Register of Big Trees.

Anyone with questions about the tree removal in Mingus Park can contact Public Works and Community Development Operations Administrator Randy Dixon by phone: 541-269-1181 ext. 2201 or by email: rdixon@coosbay.org.

the left because this is not a right-wing problem. This is a left-wing problem.”

Biden attacked Trump's handling of the pandemic, saying that the president “waited and waited” to act when the virus reached America's shores and “still doesn't have a plan.” Biden told Trump to “get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap” and go in his golf cart to the Oval Office to come up with a bipartisan plan to save people.

Trump snarled a response, declaring: “I'll tell you Joe, you could never have done the job that we did. You don't have it in your blood.”

“I know how to do the job,” was the solemn response from Biden, who served eight years as Barack Obama's vice president.

The pandemic's effects were in plain sight, with the candidates' lectures spaced far apart, all the guests in the small crowd tested and the traditional opening handshake scrapped. While neither candidate wore a mask to take the stage, their

Schools

From Page 1

CDC report said.

Mississippi is among states where several outbreaks among students and teachers have been reported since in-person classes resumed in July and August.

Kathy Willard said she had mixed feelings when her grandson's fourth grade class in Oxford was sent home for two weeks after several teachers and one student tested positive for the virus. The family doesn't have internet access at home, making remote learning a challenge. “It was a hardship.

There's always a worry about him falling behind or not getting access to what he needs for school,” Willard said. “But at the same time, I'm glad the school is doing what they can to protect our kids.”

Students in her district are required to wear masks

families did sport face coverings.

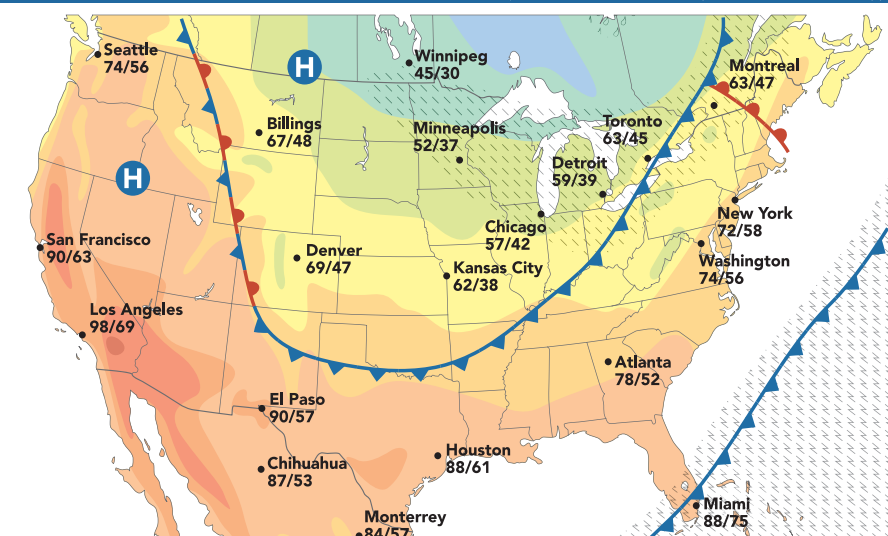
Trump struggled to define his ideas for replacing the Affordable Care Act on health care in the debate's early moments and defended his nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, declaring, “I was not elected for three years, I'm elected for four years.”

“We won the election. Elections have consequences. We have the Senate. We have the White House and we have a phenomenal nominee, respected by all.”

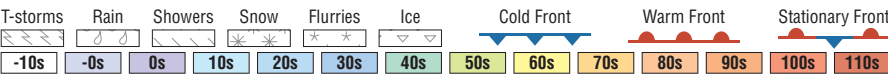
Trump criticized Biden over the former vice president's refusal to comment on whether he would try to expand the Supreme Court in retaliation if Barrett is confirmed to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. That idea has gained momentum on the party's left flank, but Biden tried to put distance between himself and the liberal wing, declining to endorse the Green New Deal and rejecting the assertion that he was under the control of radicals by declaring “I am the Democratic Party now.”

NATIONAL FORECAST

AccuWeather Plan your week | Get the NEW app



Shown are tomorrow's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL EXTREMES YESTERDAY (for the 48 contiguous states)
National high: 109° at Chino, CA National low: 14° at Walden, CO

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	82/51/s	82/51/s	Fargo	49/32/pc	51/38/c	Pittsburgh	63/42/pc	57/37/pc
Anchorage	56/48/sh	55/49/r	Flagstaff	79/39/s	81/40/s	Pocatello	80/41/s	78/39/pc
Atlanta	78/52/s	68/49/s	Fresno	99/66/pc	100/67/s	Portland, ME	72/51/s	65/48/r
Atlantic City	74/57/s	62/50/r	Green Bay	55/32/sh	50/35/c	Providence	74/52/s	70/47/r
Austin	89/57/s	82/57/s	Hartford, CT	73/50/s	62/44/r	Raleigh	77/57/s	68/48/pc
Baltimore	73/54/s	65/48/pc	Helena	75/46/s	74/44/s	Rapid City	58/33/s	69/40/s
Billings	67/48/s	73/43/pc	Honolulu	90/75/pc	89/76/sh	Redding	104/64/pc	103/64/s
Birmingham	77/49/s	70/46/s	Houston	88/61/s	81/57/s	Reno	89/53/s	90/52/s
Boise	82/52/s	84/52/pc	Indianapolis	63/42/pc	58/40/pc	Richmond, VA	77/54/s	67/46/pc
Boston	74/54/s	67/50/r	Kansas City	62/38/s	63/48/pc	Sacramento	100/61/pc	98/59/s
Buffalo	61/47/pc	56/43/sh	Key West	89/80/t	86/79/t	St. Louis	65/43/s	61/45/pc
Burlington, VT	67/47/c	59/45/r	Las Vegas	99/73/s	99/71/s	Salt Lake City	81/54/s	80/52/pc
Caribou, ME	69/43/c	64/44/r	Lexington	65/40/pc	60/40/pc	San Angelo	87/53/s	85/61/s
Casper	68/40/s	73/37/pc	Little Rock	76/46/pc	68/49/s	San Diego	88/68/s	85/67/s
Charleston, SC	80/59/s	74/53/s	Los Angeles	98/69/s	96/66/s	San Francisco	90/63/s	84/59/s
Charleston, WV	67/44/pc	59/41/pc	Louisville	68/45/s	63/44/pc	San Jose	96/65/s	93/61/s
Charlotte, NC	79/54/s	69/46/s	Madison	54/34/sh	50/37/c	Santa Fe	77/42/s	80/42/s
Cheyenne	63/42/s	72/39/pc	Memphis	74/48/s	67/48/pc	Seattle	74/56/pc	73/56/pc
Chicago	57/42/sh	54/42/pc	Miami	88/75/t	83/75/t	Sioux Falls	56/33/pc	58/40/pc
Cincinnati	65/43/pc	59/41/pc	Milwaukee	57/40/sh	52/40/pc	Spokane	76/50/s	78/51/s
Cleveland	61/46/pc	55/41/sh	Minneapolis	52/37/sh	50/39/c	Springfield, IL	63/40/pc	59/38/c
Colorado Spgs	67/45/s	77/47/pc	Missoula	76/42/s	77/43/s	Springfield, MA	72/48/s	61/42/r
Columbus, OH	64/43/pc	59/42/pc	Nashville	73/46/s	66/45/pc	Syracuse	66/47/c	61/43/sh
Concord, NH	72/44/s	63/41/r	New Orleans	83/65/s	76/59/s	Tampa	84/69/s	83/66/pc
Dallas	82/54/s	76/58/s	New York City	72/58/s	62/51/r	Toledo	62/41/pc	58/37/pc
Dayton	64/42/pc	59/40/pc	Norfolk, VA	78/60/s	66/57/c	Trenton	71/53/s	61/45/s
Daytona Beach	81/64/s	80/67/pc	Oklahoma City	74/44/pc	69/53/s	Tucson	102/67/s	101/66/s
Denver	69/47/s	76/44/pc	Olympia, WA	78/53/s	77/51/pc	Tulsa	72/42/c	68/51/pc
Des Moines	59/36/c	58/42/c	Omaha	61/38/pc	62/47/c	Washington, DC	74/56/s	67/49/pc
Detroit	59/39/sh	54/38/pc	Orlando	85/66/s	84/67/pc	W. Palm Beach	87/74/s	84/75/t
El Paso	90/57/s	89/59/s	Philadelphia	72/56/s	65/50/r	Wichita	67/40/c	66/50/s
Fairbanks	63/47/s	62/46/pc	Phoenix	106/73/s	105/73/s	Wilmington, DE	72/54/s	64/47/r

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sm-snow, i-ice, Prec.-precipitation.

on how well can you mask and distance in a school setting,” she said.

New York City, the nation's largest school district, with over 1 million students, resumed classroom learning Tuesday for elementary school children. Higher grades will resume on Thursday.

The CDC report said more than 277,000 children ages 5 to 17 were confirmed infected between March and Sept. 19, with an increase in September after a peak and a decline over the summer.

The agency acknowledged that may be an underestimate, in part because testing is most often done on people with symptoms, and children with the coronavirus often have none.

The CDC reported 51 deaths in school-age kids, most in them ages 12 to 17. Less than 2% of infected children were hospitalized, and youngsters who are Black, Hispanic or

have underlying conditions fared worse than white children.

The findings add to other data showing the pandemic is increasingly affecting younger age groups after initially hitting older Americans hard.

In a separate report Tuesday, the CDC said weekly COVID-19 cases among people ages 18 to 22 increased 55% nationally. The increases were greatest in the Northeast and Midwest and were not solely attributable to increased testing, the CDC said.

About one-third of U.S. cases are in adults 50 and older, while one-quarter are in 18-to-29-year-olds.

The AAP research is based on reports from public health departments in 49 states, New York City, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam. New York state doesn't provide data by age. Most states count children's cases up to age 19, though a few use different age ranges.

The debate was arguably Trump's best chance to try to reframe the campaign as a choice between candidates and not a referendum over his handling of the virus that has killed more people in America than any other nation. Americans, according to polling, have soured on his leadership in the crisis, and the president has struggled to land consistent attacks on Biden.

In the hours before the debate, Biden released his 2019 tax returns just days after the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years. The Bidens paid nearly \$300,000 in taxes in 2019.

Trump, in the debate, insisted he paid millions in taxes — but refused to say how much he paid in federal income taxes — and insisted he had taken advantage of legal tax incentives, another angry exchange that led to Biden declaring that Trump was the “worst president” the nation has ever had.

NORTHWEST STOCKS

Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes		
Stock	Close	8:30
Intel	51.19	51.80
Kroger	33.76	33.85
Microsoft	207.25	211.34
Nike	126.40	125.62

NW Natural	43.69	44.54
Skywest	29.80	30.60
Starbucks	84.81	86.92
Umpqua Hlds	10.64	10.71
Weyerhaeuser	28.04	28.76
Xerox	18.47	18.70

Levi Strauss	13.32	13.46
Dow Jones closed at	27,450.36	
NASDAQ closed at	11,085.04	
S&P 500 closed at	3,335.33	
Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones		

LOTTERY

MegaMillions	
Sept. 29	
14-39-43-44-67	
Megaball: 19	
Multiplier: x3	
Jackpot: \$41 million	

Powerball	
Sept. 26	
11-21-27-36-62	
Powerball: 24	
Multiplier: x3	
Jackpot: \$34 million	

Megabucks	
Sept. 28	
5-17-19-27-37-47	
Jackpot: \$2.5 Million	

Win For Life	
Sept. 28	
21-26-41-60	

[instagram.com/theworldlink](https://www.instagram.com/theworldlink)

testing. Officials and others who worked the game will be tested.

“This is not unexpected; as Dr. Sills and others have emphasized, there will be players and staff who will test positive during the season,” Goodell wrote in the memo obtained by The Associated Press, referencing the NFL’s chief medical officer, Dr. Allen Sills. “We are exploring in more detail the nature of the close contacts to determine where they occurred (locker room flights, etc.), and identify any additional learnings that can be shared with all clubs.”

Goodell asked teams to look at what they’ve done to limit contact, especially when traveling and within position groups, and to review how they bring in players for tryouts. He noted the test results affirm the need to follow health and safety protocols “to the fullest extent.”

Baseball Playoffs

WILD CARD SERIES
(Best-of-3)
x-if necessary

American League

Tuesday, Sept. 29
Houston 4, Minnesota 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 1
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1
N.Y. Yankees 12, Cleveland 3

Wednesday, Sept. 30
Houston at Minnesota, 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Chicago White Sox at Oakland, noon (ESPN)
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (TBS)
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Oct. 1
x-Toronto at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m., TBS
x-Chicago White Sox at Oakland, noon, ESPN
x-Houston at Minnesota, 10 a.m., ESPN2
x-N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 4 p.m., ESPN2

National League

Wednesday, Sept. 30
Cincinnati at Atlanta, 9 a.m. (ESPN)
Miami at Chicago Cubs, 11 a.m. (ABC)
St. Louis at San Diego, 2 p.m. (ESPN2)
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Oct. 1
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 7 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at Atlanta, 9 a.m., ESPN
Miami at Chicago Cubs, 11 a.m., ABC
St. Louis at San Diego, 2 p.m., ESPN2

x-Friday, Oct. 2
x-Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 3:30 p.m., ESPN
x-Cincinnati at Atlanta, noon, ESPN
x-Miami at Chicago Cubs, 11 a.m., ABC
x-St. Louis at San Diego, 7 p.m., ESPN

James, on Spoelstra: "I'm not going to sit up here and act like I don't know what Spo is all about, because he's damned good, if not great."

James, on Riley: "This league is not the same without Riles. He's a great guy, great motivator, someone that just knows what it takes to win."

No shade thrown there.

Both teams haven't endured much trouble in the bubble: The Heat and Lakers have each gone 12-3 in the playoffs. The Heat are the first No. 5 seed to make the finals and weren't exactly surprised to see that James is the one standing between them and the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

"It's been like this for a very long time. If you want to win, you're going to have to go through a LeBron James-led team," said Heat forward Jimmy Butler, who'll be going to his first finals in his first Miami season. "At the end of the day, that's what it normally comes down to. ... You're going to get the same test over and over again until you pass, and that test is LeBron James."

Lakers star Anthony Davis is in the finals for the first time, so he'll likely be dealing with a bit of nerves on Wednesday night. Butler acknowledged he'd be doing the same as well.

The Lakers are comfortably favored. Davis isn't expecting it to be easy.

"Miami is a special team," Davis said. "They're a team who a lot of people thought they shouldn't be here, but they're a team who fights. They're a team who's tough. They make big-time plays, got big-time players on their team, guys who are in their first year, second years who are playing huge for them right now with a lot of confidence."

French Open in 2018 prior to what would have been a fourth-round match against Maria Sharapova, citing a pulled muscle in her chest.

That was Williams' first major tournament back on tour after having a baby.

She would go on to reach the finals of each of the next six Slams, losing each time, as she tries to add to her professional-era record of 23 major singles trophies and equal Margaret Court's all-era mark.

"I love playing tennis, obviously. I love competing. And I love being out here. It's my job, been my job. And I'm pretty good at it still," Williams said. "So until I feel like I'm not good at it — then I'll be like, 'Oh, OK.' And I'm so close to some things, I just feel like I'm almost there, so I think that's what keeps me going."

Earlier this month in New York, Williams made it to the semifinals before bowing out 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 against Victoria Azarenka.

It was in the third set of that match that Williams stretched her Achilles during a point and then leaned over, clutched at her lower left leg and asked for a trainer. She took a medical timeout for a tape job and continued to play but was unable to pull off a win.

"I was able to get it somewhat better, but just looking long-term: In this tournament, will I be able to get through on enough matches? And so for me, I don't think I could," Williams said Wednesday. "And struggling to walk, so that's kind of a tell-tale sign that I should try to recover."