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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020



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Reedsport schools go online after virus exposure

The World

REEDSPORT — Students in Reedsport public schools are headed back online for at least two weeks after a COVID-19 case was reported in the district, according to an announcement from the Reedsport School District.

Students throughout the district returned to all-online instruction Tuesday, and will remain under that model until at least Nov. 30, the district said.

"After speaking with the (public health department) about the status of our community and forecasting cases in the near future, I am concerned about the health and safety of our students and staff," Superintendent Jon Zwemke wrote in the release.

The change came after the district learned of a staff member who tested positive for



The World file photo

Reedsport Community Charter School

COVID-19 on Monday. Contact tracers are communicating with students and staff members who may have come in contact with the staff member to inform them of further steps, the district said.

The district also said it's assessing the staff member's mask use, social distancing and activities

Some district services will still be offered while students are in online classes. Meal delivery will continue as scheduled, but district buildings will not serve

WiFi hotspots will be available at their designated school

bus parking locations, a list of which is available on the district's website. Students who left materials at school should email their school offices to arrange a time to pick them up, the district

"(The switch to online learning) will provide us the necessary time to quarantine effected individuals, deep clean our facilities, monitor the COVID cases and prepare for a safe return for staff and students," Zwemke

Douglas County has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks. The latest state school reopening metrics show that the two-week period ending Nov. 7 far exceeded the previous two week periods in both cases per 100,000 residents and test positivity, the data points which determine if schools can expand their in-person activities.

According to Oregon's new school metrics, districts in the county are in a "transition" phase, meaning they can't open any more classrooms to in-person instruction and should consider sending more students to online learning if cases continue to trend upward.

Stalled by the tide



John Gunther. The World

The El Conquistador sits in Coos Bay on Tuesday after it was grounded by low tide while being moved from a dock in Coos Bay to Empire. Read more about the vessel's storied history in Saturday's edition of The World.

High-end subdivision approved

ZACK DEMARS

The World

COOS BAY — The Coos Bay planning commission approved the development of a high-end subdivision Tuesday night. The developers plan to turn the property into up to 13 homes in the city's northwest corner.

Brad Woodruff, the president of Red Moon Development & Construction, hopes to begin construction as soon as possible.

The property's location makes it complex: It sits at the end of Maxwell Avenue, on the bluffs just south of the North Bend Airport, where the Coos Bav city limits abut North Bend's. The property is all technically in Coos Bay, but will use North Bend's sewer line, per an agreement with the city.

Red Moon, Woodruff's firm, is headquartered in Scottsdale,

Arizona, but is involved with several other projects in Coos Bay, including the 400-home Timber Cove project on Lindy Lane. Originally from Seattle, Woodruff said he enjoys the people and environment on the South Coast.

"The people are nice in Coos Bay and North Bend, that's refreshing," Woodruff said.

Plus, Woodruff said the area has potential, with possible economic and population growth on

the horizon. "I think there's a good opportunity here," Woodruff said.

The approval comes with a number of conditions, including certain permits, easements and environmental standards that must be satisfied prior to construction.

"We've gone through all of the conditions of approval and thing that they're great. We accept

all of them and will work with the public works department to gain the necessary approvals for each one of these lots," Hailey Sheldon, a representative of the developer, told the planning commission. "The applicant intends to put large and beautiful single-family homes on these

Unlike the Timber Cove project, which will bring 400 or more manufactured homes to market in the next few years for around \$100,000 a piece, affordability isn't the goal of the Bluffs project. The single-family homes, each with bay views, will likely cost at least \$875,000, Woodruff said.

The homes in the gated community will be designed, built and priced one at a time to allow developers to adjust to market conditions, according to planning documents. The developers will

still have to go through the building permit process for each home they build.

Developers have also requested a vacation of a portion of Maxwell Avenue, though access to the property would be through Connecticut Street.

Planning commission members were supportive of the subdivision, approving it 6-0.

"It's hard to argue with it, we get the taxes out of it and North Bend takes care of all the other stuff," Commissioner Jim Berg

said. "It's a good use of that property," Commission Chair Rex Miller added. "I'm glad to see something happening."

There's a 15-day appeal period of the Planning Commission's approval of the subdivision for issues based on the commission's criteria, city planner Debbie Erler said Tuesday.

North Bend approves funding for officers

JOHN GUNTHER The World

NORTH BEND — In a quick vote Tuesday night, the North Bend City Council approved funding for three police officers for the rest of the fiscal year by taking money from the fund for the city's pool, which has been closed since March because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandem-

The unanimous vote wasn't a surprise. The council discussed several times early in the summer using money from the pool fund to pay for the three officers so the city could continue roundthe-clock police coverage after voters in May cut the city's \$30 public service fee to \$15, a loss of revenue to the city estimated at \$785,000 a year.

The resolution approved by the council Tuesday moves \$375,050 from the pool fund to the police fund for the rest of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The money doesn't completely empty out the pool fund. A total of 107,331 remains in the fund, to cover expenses for maintaining the building. There also is \$150,000 in pool improvement

The city had earlier essentially decided to keep the pool closed for the fiscal year because of expected increased costs and loss of expected revenue due restrictions caused by the pandemic.

The money being transferred to the police department includes pool expenses for personnel, including salaries and related social security, health insurance and retirement for the pool manager as well as money for lifeguards, lights and power, water, heating and building and plant supplies.

Because the issue had been discussed repeatedly, it wasn't discussed extensively at either the Monday work session or the Tuesday council meeting.

Also on Tuesday, the council made a presentation to Fire Chief Jim Brown for 30 years of service to the city.

"I want to congratulate Jim Brown for his 30 years of service," Councilor Timm Slater said, adding that such service is not uncommon. "We have excellent employees that like to be where they are and like to be part of the city. They grow in their roles and they grow leaders around them."

Brown expressed thanks to the fire chief who hired him 30 years ago and to the residents for supporting him and the department.

"Thank you to the citizens of North Bend for allowing me to come out for the last 30 years

Please see **Funding**, Page 2

Democrats retain control of House, majority shrinks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats clinched two more years of controlling the House on Tuesday but with a potentially razor-thin majority, a bittersweet finale to last week's elections that has left them divided and with scant margin for error for advancing their agenda.

The party has now nailed down at least 218 seats, according to The Associated Press, and could win a few others when more votes are counted. While that assures command of the 435-member chamber, blindsided

Democrats were all but certain to see their current 232-seat majority shrink after an unforeseen surge of Republican voters transformed expected gains of perhaps 15 seats into losses potentially approaching that

"We have the gavel, we have the gavel," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who seems all but certain to continue in that role. While she bemoaned Democrats' losses in districts where GOP votes proved "almost insurmountable," she told reporters last week, "We've lost some battles but we've won the war." By retaining the House, Dem-

ocrats will control the chamber for four consecutive years for only the second time since 1995, when Republicans ended 40 years of Democratic dominance.

Yet though Joe Biden won the presidential election, there was a strong chance Republicans would keep Senate control. That would force Democrats to scale back their dreams of sweeping health care, infrastructure and other initiatives, instead needing

compromises with the GOP.

As the bad news sunk in, Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., who led House Democrats' campaign committee, announced Monday she wouldn't seek another term leading that organization. Democrats said privately she would have lost had she again sought the post, for which the party's lawmakers vote.

Republicans have been heartened by the House results, which many believe position them for a strong run for the majority in the

Please see **House**, Page 2

Governor warns of health care crisis due to virus surge

MAX KIRKENDALL Lincoln City News Guard

Oregon Governor Kate Brown was joined Tuesday by doctors and nurses from around the state to send a clear message to Oregonians: COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are threatening the state's health care systems, and help is needed to flatten the curve.

During the Tuesday press conference, Gov. Brown addressed some of the challenges that Oregon hospitals are starting to face as cases skyrocket.

"We all know that COVID-19 cases are surging across Oregon," Gov. Brown said. "Over the weekend, we saw daily case rates near a thousand and yesterday I announced that nine Oregon counties will be starting a two week pause as of Wednesday on social activities to help us slow the spread of COVID-19."

Gov. Brown said their fears of the virus spreading in the winter months is starting to come to fruition, but the goal is still to continue saving lives and avoid overwhelming health care systems. To do that, the state is ensuring that they have enough hospital beds, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and staff to provide life-saving care.

"This is very serious, Oregon is headed on the wrong road," Gov. Brown said. "While we have plans in place to share beds and ventilators if necessary, that needs to be a last resort. We cannot and should not be relying on the fact that our hospital systems can withstand a surge. Instead, we should be working together to ensure they don't have

Dr. Dana Hargunani, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), said that over the past three weeks, Oregon has gained more than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases and the death toll has risen to 737.

"The trend is clear and very concerning, and sadly the pace of deaths continues to march along with dozens of Oregonians lost each week," Dr. Hargunani said.

Additionally, Oregon has had a 57 percent increase in hospitalizations since Nov.

3 and an 83 percent increase in the past four weeks. As of right now, the state has 146 available adult intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 701 available beds that are not ICU, 130 beds for ICU pediatric patients and 116 for non-ICU pediatric patients. The state has increased its ventilator capacity since the spring, with 762 available.

Over the course of the pandemic, Dr. Hargunani said they've learned a lot and have relied on communication and coordination between health care systems throughout the state.

'Since the H1N1 pandemic, we've been working closely with hospitals around the state to prepare for emergencies just like COVID-19," Dr. Hargunani said. "While COVID-19 has been larger and longer lasting than we could have ever anticipated, we found that our foundational learning has helped us in the early days when we first saw these cases."

Dr. Hargunani said Oregon is now better prepared to handle a surge in patients, and through partnerships, the state has been able to facilitate help where it is needed. Evidence of that was seen during the September wildfires as hospitals were able to move evacuated patients to other hospitals fairly routinely.

But although the health care system is better prepared than it was at the start of the pandemic, Dr. Hargunani said it has its limits.

"We need to rely on Oregonians to help us manage the virus by taking steps to limit spread," Dr. Hargunani said. "Oregonians are worn out. Tired of a year with limited social connections and so many difficulties of all types. Our health care workers have felt this too, even as they continue to face this virus on a daily basis."

Doctors from around the state provided a brief update on how they are handling the sudden surge in cases, including Jeff Absalon, MD CMO, of St. Charles Hospital in Central Oregon. Dr. Absalon said they are 'very concerned,' as case counts and hospitalizations are doubling, reaching the highest level of patients since the pandemic started.

Dr. Absalon said they

have developed surge plans to send patients to outlying hospitals and currently have a good number of supplies. However, staffing has been an issue, as they have looked at delaying elective surgeries or potentially shutting them down if necessary, to fulfill staffing requirements.

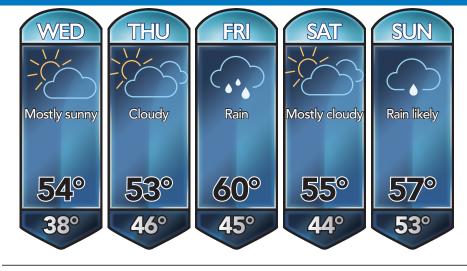
"If you do your part to slow the spread of this virus, you are directly helping our frontline healthcare workers," Dr. Absalon said. "Many of these workers are balancing full time work with parenting and teaching responsibilities in this current environment. We need them rested, we need them available to help you and all of those in need when care is necessary."

Jeff Grebosky, MD, CMO at Asante Hospital in Southern Oregon said they've seen a 162 percent rise in cases/hospitalizations the past few weeks and don't expect that to change in the near future. He urged everyone to follow safety guidelines such as washing your hands regularly, wearing a face covering, keeping physical distance from others and staying home when you feel sick.

Jennifer Burrows, RN, BN, RSc, MBA and Chief Nursing Officer at Providence Medical Centers said they saw a jump from 34 to 58 COVID-19 inpatients the past few weeks. Providence was the first hospital system to care for a COVID-19 patient, and since then Burrows said they have been able to conduct trial runs, provide faster care for patients and analyze data to better serve the public.

"I know we are tired ... we're all tired," Burrows said. "I'm the mother of children in the Portland Public School system being taught virtually, I'm the wife of a husband who has worked remotely since March, I'm one of those people in the grocery store working harder to accomplish my weekly to-do list than I did a year ago. But I'm also a nurse and a voice for the professional clinical team that wants to be ready and able to effectively care for you if you need our services.

"We need your help with this, we need you to make wise choices."



House

From Page 1

2022 elections. They also bolstered their distressingly low number of women representatives from 13 to at least 26, a record for the GOP, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, and were adding new ethnic minority lawmakers as well.

"The Republican coalition is bigger, more diverse, more energetic than ever before," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said the day after the election.

Democrats went into Election Day with a 232-197 House advantage, plus an independent and five open seats. With some races remaining undecided, it was possible that in the new Congress that convenes in January they'll have the smallest majority since Republicans had just 221 seats two decades ago.

Democrats secured the majority after The Associated Press declared three winners late Tuesday: incumbents Kim Schrier in Washington, Tom O'Halleran in Arizona and Jimmy Gomez in California.

A tight majority could cause headaches for Pelosi, empowering any determined group of lawmakers to pressure her on what bills should be considered or look like. But sometimes, a slender margin can help unify a party because its members know they must stick together to achieve anything.

Democratic moderates and progressives clash periodically, and while the moderates are more numerous, the progressives' ranks include influential social media stars like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez,

Underscoring that tension, House Democrats vented during a three-hour conference call last week in which both factions blamed the other for rhetoric and policies they said proved costly in the campaign.

"We should be honest that this was not a good outcome," Rep. Tom Malinowski, D-N.J., a moderate freshman, said in an interview. He said terms like "defunding the police" hurt Democrats by making it sound like they oppose law enforcement, and said they shouldn't speak "as if we were talking to woke progressives in neighborhoods where 90% of the votes are for Democrats."

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a progressive leader, said in an interview that Democrats need to discuss "how we talk about some of these issues that are critical to different parts of our base." But with moderates complaining that the GOP hurt Democrats by repeatedly accusing them of pushing socialism, Jayapal said such accusations "will be used against us no matter what we say."

Democrats believed they'd pick up seats, especially in suburbs, because of a decisive fundraising edge, President Donald Trump's unpopularity and exasperation over the pandemic. Many Republicans and independent polls supported that expectation.

But with some races still uncalled, Democrats haven't defeated a single GOP incumbent and failed to capture open GOP-held seats in Texas, Missouri and Indiana they thought they'd win.

Instead, they've lost at least seven incumbents: six freshmen from states including Florida, Oklahoma and South Carolina

plus 30-year veteran Rep. Collin Peterson from rural Minnesota. And while they successfully defended most of their 29 districts that Trump carried in his 2016 victory, they saw stronger than expected performances by GOP candidates all around the country.

"With President Trump on the ballot, it just drove enormous turnout that was almost impossible to surmount," said Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., a reelected freshman.

"The country has become more polarized and divided," said Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va. "If you're running in alien territory, you're always at risk of failure."

So far, Democrats' only pickups were three open seats from which Republicans retired. Two were in North Carolina, where court-ordered remapping made the districts strongly Democratic, and one was outside Atlanta.

Going into the election, Democrats envisioned strengthening their moderate wing, since most districts they seemed likely to capture were closely divided between GOP and Democratic voters. But they ended up suffering losses in those same type of districts, meaning it was mostly moderates who

"In electoral politics, moderates are the beachfront property," said Jim Kessler, an official with Third Way, a centrist Democratic group. "And if there's flooding, they're the ones that get washed away."

Illustrating that, the Blue Dog Coalition of the most conservative House Democrats, whose membership has dwindled in recent years, lost at least six of its roughly two dozen members.

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board meets Nov. 19

COOS BAY — The Board of Directors of the Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board will hold a quarterly meeting by Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 19.

The meeting begins at noon and tops include consideration of strategic plan, audit presentation, updates from staff on current activ-

ities and financial reports, and other routine business.

Accommodations for those with disabilities will be made available upon request.

Contact info@sowib. org for accommodations request or to access the Zoom link.

The Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board is a nonprofit organization that works to maximize regional collaboration, effective innovation and coordinated investment of public and private resources to optimize equitable access to family sustaining employment.

To learn more about the organization, visit www. sowib.org.

Funding

From Page 1

when you are having a very bad day and hopefully make that day a little better," he said. "Thank you to the city council and to everyone we've worked with. You have a fantastic fire department ... that does a fantastic job for all the citizens."

Rick Wetherell, who is retiring as mayor, and Slater, who was not reelected to another term on the

council, both also spoke briefly of the future of the "There is a new day

dawning in North Bend's government," Wetherell said. "It's going to be brighter. There is no doubt about that."

Slater, who has served two different stints on the council, as well as a stretch as mayor, said when he was first appointed to the council in 1981, there were members with various backgrounds but a common purpose, a trend that

has continued since.

"The main focus was not only to have the city run well that particular year, but also to be better in the future," he said. "That's what aligned everybody together."

He encouraged the new council members who will start after the election is certified by Coos County to have a vision for what the city should be and work together to achieve it.

"There's many wonderful things that we can accomplish," he said.

Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes Stock Close 8:30 Intel 45.43 46.12 Kroger 31.92 31.99 Microsoft 211.14 215.98 127.70 128.20

NW Natural 49.95 51.44 36.41 35.50 Skywest Starbucks 93.89 94 98 Umpqua Hldgs 14.28 13.80 Weyerhaeuser 27.75 28.39 21.62 21.11

Levi Straus 17.32 16.97 Dow Jones closed at 29,442.50 NASDAQ closed at 11,558.60 S&P 500 closed at 3,544.84 Provided by Coos Bay Edward MegaMillions

Nov. 10 23-45-53-58-62 Megaball: 13 Multiplier: x5 Jackpot: \$165 million

Powerball Nov. 7 14-16-37-48-58 Powerball: 18 Multiplier: x2

Jackpot: \$158 million

Megabucks 1-11-14-19-21-22 Jackpot: \$4.3 Million Win For Life Nov. 9 44-63-66-68



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Fishing, environmental groups sue over Umpqua River Dam

PORTLAND (AP) — A coalition of environmental and fishing groups are suing a water district in southern Oregon over an aging, privately owned dam that they say hinders the passage of struggling salmon populations in the pristine North Umpqua

The lawsuit, filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Eugene, asks a judge to order the Winchester

Water Control District to build a new fish ladder and make major repairs to Winchester Dam, which dates to 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The dam is one of the oldest in Oregon.

The aging fish ladder on the 130-year-old dam blocks the progress of migrating Oregon Coast coho salmon — a federally protected species — as well as spring and fall Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific Lamprey, according to the lawsuit. There's also no record that the water district has rights to hold and store water behind the dam under state law, the lawsuit said.

Dominic M. Carollo, the water district's attorney, did not return a call for comment Tuesday.

The North Umpqua River is pristine fish habitat and is cherished anglers alike, said Jim McCarthy, with Water-Watch of Oregon, one of the plaintiffs. The 167 river above the dam are he said, and are a key industry.

by environmentalists and some of the highest-quality fish habitat in the state, part of the coastal fishing

miles (268 kilometers) of

Curry County. The state also reported three new deaths, raising the total to 737.

The World

PORTLAND —The

Oregon Health Authority

reported another 771 new

confirmed and presump-

tive cases of COVID-19

the state's total since

the pandemic began to

Douglas County. There

was one new case in

51,909 and included eight in Coos County and 18 in

as of 12:01 a.m. Tuesday.

The new cases brought

The new cases were reported in the following counties: Baker (7), Benton (13), Clackamas (110), Clatsop (2), Columbia (3), Coos (8), Crook (9), Curry (1), Deschutes (30), Douglas (18), Grant (3), Harney (3), Hood River (2), Jackson (56), Jefferson (7), Josephine (3), Klamath (7), Lane (49), Lincoln

(3), Linn (18), Malheur (15), Marion (90), Multnomah (151), Polk (15), Umatilla (23), Union (8), Wallowa (1), Wasco (2), Washington (95), and Yamhill (19).

Oregon reports

another 771 cases

Oregon's 735th COVID-19 death is a 73-year-old man in Deschutes County who tested positive on Oct. 31 and died on Nov. 9, at St. Charles Medical Center Bend. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 736th COVID-19 death is a 94-year-old woman in Washington County who tested positive on Oct. 30 and died on Nov. 9, at her residence. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 737th COVID-19 death is a 94-year-old man in Marion County who tested positive on Oct. 22 and died on Nov. 9, at his residence. He had underlying conditions.

Portland man sentenced in attack

PORTLAND (AP) — A 26-year-old man has been sentenced to 20 months in prison for beating the driver of a truck that crashed near an August protest in downtown Portland, Oreoon. The incident inflamed tensions that were already high over near-nightly racial justice protests and drew even more national

attention to the city. Marquise Love pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and felony riot and was sentenced Monday, according to a statement from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Love was captured on video chasing the truck's driver and knocking him unconscious on Aug. 16 as a protest unfolded nearby. The video of the attack circulated widely

online but it's still unclear exactly what led up to the incident.

Love was identified by police and turned himself in several days after the attack. He has since expressed "genuine remorse" and apologized to victim Adam Haner, according to prosecutor Mike Schmidt. Haner agreed to the terms of Love's plea deal, Schmidt said.

"The video of this assault is violent and shocking. It outraged our community and nation. We are fortunate that the victim's injuries were not as severe as it first appeared they may have been," Schmidt said. "This is a proper resolution. Marquise Love is accepting responsibility for his actions and the punishment."

Final week of hurricane season brings new storms

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Just when you thought it should be safe to go back to the water, the record-setting tropics are going crazy. Again.

Tropical Storm Eta is parked off the western coast of Cuba, dumping rain. When it finally moves again, computer models and human forecasters are befuddled about where it will go and how strong it will be.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Theta — which formed overnight and broke a record as the 29th named Atlantic storm of the season — is chugging east toward Europe on the cusp of hurricane status. The last time there were two named storms churning at the same time this late in the year was in December 1887, Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

But wait there's more. A tropical wave moving across the Atlantic somehow survived the mid-November winds that usually decapitate storms. The system now has a 70% chance of becoming the 30th named storm. That's Iota on your already filled scorecard. If it forms, it is heading generally toward the same region of Central America that was hit by

Never before have three named storms been twirling at the same time this late in the year, Klotzbach said. Hurricane records go back to 1851, but before the satellite era, some storms were likely missed.

"Someone didn't give the tropics the memo that its mid-November. This map doesn't look normal," said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. "Usually by this time of year, the season is basically over. Now we've got the 28th, 29th and maybe 30th storm going on at the same time."

Generally fewer than one storm forms in the Atlantic hurricane basin in November but not this year, said Mike Brennan, branch chief for hurricane specialists at the hurricane center.

For the moment, the biggest threat and biggest conundrum is Eta, which struck Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane, killing more than 100 people from Mexico to Panama. By Tuesday afternoon, it was lingering just north of the Yucatan Channel between Cuba and Mexico, with top winds of 60 mph (95 kmh).

Eta continued to swell rivers and flood coastal zones in Cuba. Some 25,000 people were evacuated with no reports of deaths, but rainfall continued, with total accumulations of up to 25 inches (63 centimeters) predicted.

The rain kept falling

Tuesday in South Florida, where as much as 23 inches were expected to accumulate. Eta barely hit land late Sunday as it blew over Lower Matecumbe Key on its way into the Gulf of Mexico, but the storm dumped water over densely populated neighborhoods from Monroe to Palm Beach counties. McNoldy has logged more than 90 inches of rain at his Miami house this year, a record.

"Once the ground becomes saturated, there's really no place for the water to go," Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said.

"Now I have fish in my yard and everything, it's rough," Davie resident Troy Rodriguez said.

The problem with forecasting Eta is the lack of steering currents that push or pull a storm. Eta's ultimate track depends on how strong it gets because weaker and stronger storms are steered by different parts of the atmosphere, scientists said.

A report from the National Hurricane Center included the line that forecasters have "little confidence in the long-range track forecast.'

The map of computer model tracks for Eta looks like a "squashed spider," Klotzbach said, referring to the many outstretched lines that trace its possible movement.

US hits record number for COVID-19 hospitalizations

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. hit a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations Tuesday and surpassed 1 million new confirmed cases in just the first 10 days of November amid a nationwide surge of infections that shows no signs of slowing.

The new wave appears bigger and more widespread than the surges that happened in the spring and summer — and threatens to be worse. But experts say there are also reasons to think the nation is better able to deal with the virus this time around.

"We're definitely in a better place" when it comes to improved medical tools and knowledge, said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious-disease researcher.

Newly confirmed infections in the U.S. were running at all-time highs of well over 100,000 per day, pushing the total to more than 10 million and eclipsing 1 million since Halloween. There are now 61,964 people hospitalized, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Several states posted records Tuesday, including over 12,600 new cases in Illinois, 10,800 in Texas and 7,000 in Wisconsin.

Deaths — a lagging indicator, since it takes time for people to get sick and die — are climbing again, reaching an average of more than 930 a day.

Hospitals are getting slammed. And unlike the earlier outbreaks, this one is not confined to a region or two.

"The virus is spreading in a largely uncontrolled fashion across the vast majority of the country," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-disease expert at Vanderbilt University.

Governors made increasingly desperate pleas for people to take the fight against the virus more

seriously.

time speech hours after Wisconsin set new records for infections and deaths, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers announced that he was advising people to stay in their houses and businesses to allow people to work remotely, require masks and limit the number of people in stores and offices.

In an unusual prime-

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, ordered bars and restaurants to close at 10 p.m., and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, said she will require masks at indoor gatherings of 25 or more people, inching toward more stringent measures after months of holding out.

While deaths are still well below the U.S. peak of about 2,200 per day back in April, some researchers estimate the nation's overall toll will hit about 400,000 by Feb. 1, up from about 240,000 now.

Eta prepares to hit Florida again

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Eta regained hurricane strength Wednesday morning as Florida braced for a second hit from the storm along the Gulf of Mexico coast near the heavily-populated Tampa Bay region.

The storm's maximum sustained winds increased to around 75 mph (120 kph) off Florida's southwest coast as it moved northward.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami issued a hurricane watch for a 120-mile (193-kilometer) stretch that includes Tampa and St. Petersburg. The storm has been in the Gulf of Mexico since crossing over South Florida on Sunday.

The latest hurricane watch extends from Anna Maria Island, which is south of St. Petersburg, to Yankeetown.

The latest forecast prompted school officials in Pinellas and Pasco counties, which includes St. Petersburg, to send students home early Wednesday.

Both counties announced schools would remain closed Thursday.

In Pasco County, officials set up four do-it-yourself locations for people to fill sandbags. In Tampa, the Busch Gardens theme park announced it is closed Wednesday and several Veterans Day events in the area were canceled.

A coronavirus testing site at Tropicana Field was also closed Wednesday.

Eta was about 130 miles west-southwest of Fort Myers early Wednesday and moving at 15 mph (24

The hurricane center said "life-threatening storm surge" is possible early Thursday, and forecasters advised residents to heed warnings from local officials. Tropical stormforce winds are expected in the area by late Wednesday.

Forecasts call for more rain from the storm system over parts of already

drenched South Florida. "Never seen this, never, not this deep," said Anthony Lyas, who has lived in his now-waterlogged Fort Lauderdale neighborhood since 1996. He described hearing water and debris slamming against his shuttered home overnight as the storm crossed Florida.

The storm first hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane and killed nearly 70 people from Mexico to Panama, before moving into the Gulf of Mexico early Monday near where the Everglades meet the sea, with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph).

"It was far worse than we could've ever imagined, and we were prepared," said Arbie Walker, a 27-year-old student whose Fort Lauderdale apartment was filled with 5 or 6 inches (13 to 15 centimeters) of water.

There was nowhere for the water to go across much of South Florida, which had already experienced nearly 14 inches (35 centimeters) of rain in October

DEAR ABBY By Abigail Van Buren

LETTER-WRITING FADES AWAY WHEN NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

DEAR ABBY: Would you please address again the importance of expressing gratitude via a handwritten note when a generous gift has been given? We grandparents would love it to be acknowledged by our grandchildren. Some of them are better than others at this. My take is that their parents, although they were taught properly, didn't take the time to emphasize the

importance of expressing gratitude. I don't accept the notion that "people just don't do that anymore." When I give a generous gift to a newlywed couple or a grandchild, the money came out of my bank account. I want to know my gift was received and appreciated. I have almost reached the point where, in the future, I will respond "not able to attend" and send nothing when I know the odds of it being acknowledged are practically nil and the couple is, for instance, a distant relative. Abby, is that letter-writing publication of yours still available? It's obviously still needed. --DISGUSTED IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR DISGUSTED: Yes, my Letters booklet is still available. The issues you raise are ones I hear about often from readers. However, you may be judging these folks a bit harshly. Many people put off writing letters because they don't know how to express their feelings via the written word and fear they will say the wrong thing. They think a thank-you note must be long and flowery when, in fact, short and to the point is more effective.

That is the reason why "How To Write Letters for All Occasions" was written. It contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as the ones that arrive around holiday time. It also

includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult subjects, such as the loss of a parent, a spouse or a child. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. With the holiday season fast approaching, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written

Because letter composition is not always effectively taught in the schools, my booklet can serve as a helpful tutorial -- not only a valuable tool for parents to use in teaching their children to write using proper etiquette, but also a handy guide for anyone who puts off writing because they don't know what to say. **DEAR ABBY:** Is weekly intimacy

unusual at 72 years of age? --WONDERINĠ IN TEXĀS DEAR WONDERING: Not for

someone who has a partner who is willing and able.

DEAR VETERANS:

For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You are the personification of patriotism, selfsacrifice and dedication to our country. Today I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made. -- Love, ABBY

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.

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Mattingly, Cash named baseball's top managers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the time Kevin Cash pulled Tampa Bay ace Blake Snell from the last game of the World Series, he had already been voted Manager of the Year in the American League.

Even if he ended up losing the biggest prize.

It was a Sunshine State sweep for skippers Tuesday night, with Miami's Don Mattingly winning NL Manager of the Year and

Cash receiving the AL award. Long regarded as one of baseball's brightest young minds, Cash guided the thrifty Rays to an AL-best 40-20 record during the pandemic-shortened season. But he was roundly criticized for pulling a dominant Snell in the sixth inning of the decisive Game 6 of the Fall Classic against the champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Have I reflected on it? There's not a day that goes by that I don't reflect on it," Cash said. "Being in this position we

owe it to ourselves and more importantly our players to continue to reflect on those decisions."

After Snell exited, the Dodgers rallied against Nick Anderson and went on to a 3-1 victory. Cash said he has had multiple conversations with many people within the game since the loss and has received a lot of positive support.

"Yes, I would do it the same way all over again. I would plead for a different outcome, that's for sure," Cash said with a chuckle.

"That decision was not reflective of my confidence in Blake. It was very reflective of my confidence in Nick, and that's (what) I felt was, at the moment, the best chance for us to win the game."

Voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America concluded before the beginning of the playoffs. Rick Renteria, let go by the Chicago White Sox after the team made the postseason for the first time since 2008, finished second in the AL, followed by

Toronto's Charlie Montoyo.

Mattingly led the Marlins to their first playoff appearance since 2003 despite dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak that paused their season and ravaged the

The Marlins' 31-29 record was Mattingly's first winning season in his fifth year with the club. The former New York Yankees first baseman and captain had a winning record in each of his five seasons as manager of the Dodgers.

Mattingly, the first Manager of the Year for the Marlins since Joe Girardi in 2006, was the AL MVP in 1985. He became the fifth person to win both MVP and Manager of the Year.

"They're just different. The first one feels personal and this one feels more like a team thing," Mattingly said, "and that's why I'm proud of it because we've struggled for a couple years and for us to move forward is important, and I think this is a sign that we're heading

in that direction."

San Diego's Jayce Tingler finished second behind Mattingly in balloting by the BBWAA, followed by David Ross of the Chicago Cubs.

The Cy Young Awards will be announced by the BBWAA on Wednesday night, followed by the MVPs on Thursday.

After losing 105 games a year ago, Miami had its 2020 season nearly derailed by a coronavirus outbreak during the first weekend of play. The team had to make 174 roster moves but still managed the franchise's first winning record since 2009.

The steady hand of the 59-year-old Mattingly played a big role in the turnaround, which continued in the playoffs. Miami eliminated the NL Central champion Cubs in the first round before getting swept by the Atlanta Braves in the Division Series.

"Over 100 losses, that's the tough part," Mattingly said. "It just feels good that we're moving in the right direction."

Cash, who turns 43 on Dec. 6, hit .183 with 12 homers and 58 RBIs in 246 major league games as a catcher for five teams, including Tampa Bay. After his playing career ended, he worked as an advance scout for Texas and Toronto before joining manager Terry Francona's staff in Cleveland as the bullpen coach.

The Tampa, Florida, native and Florida State alum was hired as Tampa Bay manager the day before his 37th birthday. He finished third in balloting for AL Manager of the Year in each of the past two seasons. He is the franchise's first winner of the award since Joe Maddon in 2011.

"There is a sense of pride being a Tampa guy," said Cash, who is 454-416 in six years as manager of the Rays.

Tampa Bay had a \$29 million prorated payroll as of Aug. 1, which ranked 28th out of 30 teams. Still, the Rays won the AL East for the first time since 2010.

DeChambeau brings bulk, behemoth drives to Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The cart picking up golf balls on the practice range at Augusta National can only go so far. Club members were swapping tales Tuesday about the staff who reached the end of the range and had to sort through azalea bushes more than 350 yards away to pick up a few more balls.

The culprit, of course, was Bryson DeChambeau.

Never mind that Tiger Woods is the defending champion at the Masters, and still emotional 19 months later talking about that fierce embrace he shared with his son. Or that the silence of not having spectators for the first time is just as eerie as the color of autumn in the trees.

DeChambeau has become a showstopper. He has everyone curious about whether his bulk and his behemoth tee shots can undress Augusta National.

"It's a substantially easier golf course for him than it is for everybody else," said Justin Thomas, who joined DeChambeau, Woods and Fred Couples for a practice round at the start of the week. "I think once he starts messing with that longer driver and has a little bit more free time, then as crazy as it is, he might be able to hit it further."

That longer driver is a half-inch short of 48 inches, the legal limit in competition, the type used by the World Long Drive competitors who turn the long ball into a spectacle. DeChambeau tried it out

Monday after his practice round and liked how it reacted. He has not ruled out using it when the Masters begins Thursday.

"I got my swing speed up to 143, 144 (mph)," he said.

The average swing speed for a power player on the PGA Tour is around 120

Numbers define DeChambeau these days, starting with the more than 40 pounds of muscle and mass he has added in the last year, remarkable gains from an estimated 5,000 calories a day in his diet and relentless work in the gym. More recently, it was the excitement at home in Dallas when one of his drives carried just over 400 vards.

The numbers that stand out at Augusta National are stamped on the bottom of his

A 7-iron for his second shot on the 575yard second hole. As little as a 6-iron into the 570-yard eighth hole that plays uphill. An 8-iron into the 495-yard fifth hole. "It was into the wind," he said.

He hit pitching wedge into the 505-yard 11th hole on Monday and asked Woods, "What did you hit in '97?" Woods told him pitching wedge.

"I'm like, 'That's cool, all right," DeChambeau.

Woods was hitting pitching wedge for his second shot into the par-5 15th when he won the first of his five green jackets. He was 21 and his length was unlike

anything seen at the Masters. The course was some 500 yards shorter back then, lengthened over the next few years in what became known as Tiger-proofing.

Since then, rapid advancement in technology — bigger drivers, better science, solid-core golf balls — allowed everyone to join the distance race. The difference is DeChambeau has taken it to another level through his athleticism.

He got bigger and stronger to swing faster and hit the ball even farther. And he has no idea if he's nearing the limits or just getting started.

"Every day I'm trying to get faster and stronger and I'm trying to hit it as far as possible," DeChambeau said.

He said he is hitting it farther than when he won the U.S. Open in September by six shots with the lowest score ever at Winged Foot, and farther than when he last played in Las Vegas a month ago. And the description of his pre-shot routine was telling.

"I'm just trying to get up there like I'm in a batter's box swinging as hard as I can, trying to hit a home run," he said. "I don't know if there's a better way to say it."

Length has been an advantage going back to Bobby Jones and Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus and Seve Ballesteros.

Length is not everything, and DeChambeau would be the first to concede that. Ask him about Winged Foot and he will talk about how well he hit his irons for the week, not to mention his short game. It's

no different at the Masters.

"I can hit it as far as I want to, but it comes down to putting and chipping out here," he said. "That is one of the things that I think people sometimes struggle to see. As much as I can gain an advantage off the tee, I still have to putt it well and chip it well and wedge it well and even iron play it well, and that's what I did at the U.S. Open."

It is no less impressive — the concept he wanted to explore, the risk he took, the

"He's put in the time. He's put in the work," Woods said. "What he's done in the gym has been incredible, and what he's done on the range and what he's done with his entire team to be able to optimize that one club and transform his game and the ability to hit the ball as far as he has and in as short a span as he has, it's never been done before."

How it translate at the Masters won't be known until the end of the week. It's still about the low score. Rory McIlroy still believes Augusta National provides the proper test no matter how far DeChambeau or anyone else hits it. He doesn't feel the game is being threatened just yet.

"If trophies were handed out just for how far you hit it and how much ball speed you have, then I'd be worried," McIlroy said. "But there's still a lot of different aspects that you need to master in this game."

Gonzaga starts season atop poll

DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

Just about the only thing Gonzaga has left to accomplish under Mark Few is win a national championship.

The 'Zags scratched another first off the list Monday: They will open the season at No. 1.

Despite losing West Coast Conference player of the year Filip Petrusev, the Bulldogs received 28 first-place votes and 1,541 points from a 64-member national media panel. That was just enough to edge Baylor (24 first-place vote) by a single point for the top spot in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 heading toward the delayed Nov. 25 start of the season.

"It's a great honor to be selected No. 1," Few said. "We understand that it is more a reflection of what our program has accomplished over the years and hope to play up to that standard as we start our season."

Villanova received 11 firstplace votes and was third, followed by Virginia with the remaining first-place vote. Iowa was picked fifth behind national player of the year front-runner Luka Garza, its highest preseason ranking in school history.

Then came a wave of bluebloods with Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Duke and Kentucky completing the top 10.

The Bulldogs spent four weeks at No. 1 last season before finishing second to the Jayhawks in the final poll, which was taken when the NCAA

Tournament was canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Petrusev's choice to play professionally in Serbia and then enter the draft was a blow, but the Bulldogs still have the pieces to win it all. Corey Kispert and Joel Ayayi provide scoring punch and the arrival of potential one-and-done guard Jalen Suggs should steady their backcourt.

The 'Zags certainly scheduled like title contenders. They open Nov. 26 against Kansas at the Fort Myers Tip-Off, where they also will play Auburn, and face Baylor in Indianapolis and Iowa in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Bears, who also have their highest preseason ranking, spent five weeks at No. 1 last season and only lost one starter in big man Freddie Gillespie. But coach Scott Drew could have the nation's best backcourt in Jared Butler, Davion Mitchell and MaCio Teague, the best defender in Mark Vital and depth behind top-100 recruit L.J. Cryer and transfer Adam Flagler.

The Bears also built a brutal schedule, playing Illinois and potentially Villanova in the Empire Classic along with Gonzaga.

Garza was second to Dayton's Obi Toppin for national player of the year last season, and the Iowa big man flirted with the NBA before returning to the Hawkeyes.

THE SECOND FIVE: The Jayhawks lost Devon Dotson and Udoka Azubuike from a team

that was the likely No. 1 overall seed had the NCAA Tournament been played, but they return enough firepower to give Baylor

a challenge in the Big 12. Wisconsin and Illinois join the Hawkeyes in giving the Big Ten some fresh flavor atop the poll. Young and rebuilding Duke and Kentucky could take some lumps early in the season but could be championship contenders by March.

THE REST OF THE POLL: Creighton lost Ty-Shon Alexander to the NBA and Davion Mintz to Kentucky but still landed the highest preseason ranking in school history at No. 11, followed by Tennessee, Michigan State, Texas Tech and West Virginia.

North Carolina was next with Houston at No. 17, its highest preseason ranking since the final Phi Slama Jama team of Hakeem Olajuwon began the 1983-84 season at No. 3. Arizona State, Texas and Oregon finish the first 20 with Florida State, UCLA, Ohio State, Rutgers and Michigan rounding out the Top 25.

ON THE DOORSTEP: LSU was the first team outside the rankings, followed by Memphis, Florida, Alabama and Indiana. San Diego State got six votes after finishing No. 6 in the final poll last season but losing Mountain West player of the year Malachi Flynn and two other elite producers. Louisville and Seton Hall also are unranked after finishing in the top 15 last season.

South Carolina tops initial women's poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Dawn Staley already has accomplished so much at South Carolina. Now she can add the first preseason No. 1 ranking in school history to the list of achievements.

The Gamecocks received 29 of the 30 first-place votes in The Associated Press preseason women's Top 25 released

Tuesday. "It's pretty cool to be the first to do things at a place, where you can feel the love for our team in this town," said Staley, who has won a national championship and five SEC Tournament titles since coming to the school in 2008. "They've been along this journey with us and allowed us to do things like this."

The Gamecocks, who had been second twice in the preseason poll, in 2014 and 2015, finished last season at No. 1 for the first time. Staley hopes that this year's team will get a chance to compete for a national championship after last season's NCAA Tournament was canceled because of the coronavirus nandemic.

Following the Gamecocks at No. 2 was Stanford, which received the other first-place vote from the national media panel. It's the Cardinal's highest ranking in the preseason since the 2009 season when the team also was second.

"I'm proud of our team and they are coming to the gym and

getting better," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "We have a long way to go, no doubt, but

I'm very excited." UConn, Baylor and Louisville round out the top five. It is the 14th consecutive year that the Huskies were ranked in the top five in the preseason.

Mississippi State was sixth. Arizona was seventh, the first time since 2004 that the Wildcats have been ranked in the preseason poll. North Carolina State, UCLA and Oregon rounded out the top 10 with Oregon State 18th.

RESPECTING THE CATS: Northwestern was ranked in the preseason poll for the first time since 2015, coming in at No. 17. Joe McKeown's squad was in the AP Top 25 for the final nine weeks last season, climbing to No. 11 in the final poll. There is a lot of excitement around the program because of senior Lindsey Pulliam, who was first team all-conference last year, and junior Veronica Burton, the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year.

CONFERENCE SUPREME-CY: The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and Pac-12 each have five teams in the preseason poll. The ACC has four, with the Big East and Big 12 each having two. The Missouri Valley and West Coast Conference each have one program in the Top 25. It's the first time since 2015 that two mid-major teams were ranked in the preseason poll.