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Oregon to maximize testing capacity

MAX KIRKENDALL
The News Guard

SALEM — Governor Kate Brown said more COVID-19 (coronavirus) testing is on its way to Oregon as daily case counts continue to rise statewide.

Ahead of the cold and rainy Oregon fall and winter seasons, Gov. Brown held a press conference today (Oct. 6) to discuss the state's effort to continue reduce the spread of the virus. The governor was joined by Oregon Health Authority Director Pat

Allen and Dr. Melissa Sutton, Senior Health Advisor for OHA.

"Because of COVID, this year, we have learned to live with separation, grief and ever-present uncertainty. I know it hasn't been easy," Gov. Brown said in her opening remarks. "Parents have really struggled with difficult choices, sending kids to daycare or school, or continuing the impossible task of working from home while parenting and teaching."

Allen gave some of the latest statistics for COVID-19 that

includes over 35,000 positive cases in Oregon and 581 deaths related to the virus. Allen said there has been a steady increase of daily cases over the past few weeks, with a 25% increase since Aug. 31. Oregon has recorded on average 285 new cases per day with a large portion stemming from social gatherings, according to OHA.

"We have reversed the progress we made during the summer," Allen said. "Our latest modeling shows the virus is spreading more rapidly."

Gov. Brown said the rise in cases was to be expected after Labor Day weekend and the intense wildfires that forced people from their homes. OHA has a growing concern of seeing more spikes in case counts as the weather shifts and forces people inside, where the virus spreads more easily.

"I can only imagine if we are sick of COVID and physical distancing now, it's only going to get harder as we enter the winter months ahead of us," Gov. Brown said. "We see over and

over again that COVID does not discriminate, it doesn't matter if you are old or young, it doesn't matter your race, your political beliefs or your religion. It doesn't even matter if you're president of the United States. COVID can find a way to any of us."

OHA continues to study the virus and find new ways to mitigate the spread. One tool they will be utilizing in the coming months will be the maximized testing capacity coming from the federal government. Gov. Brown

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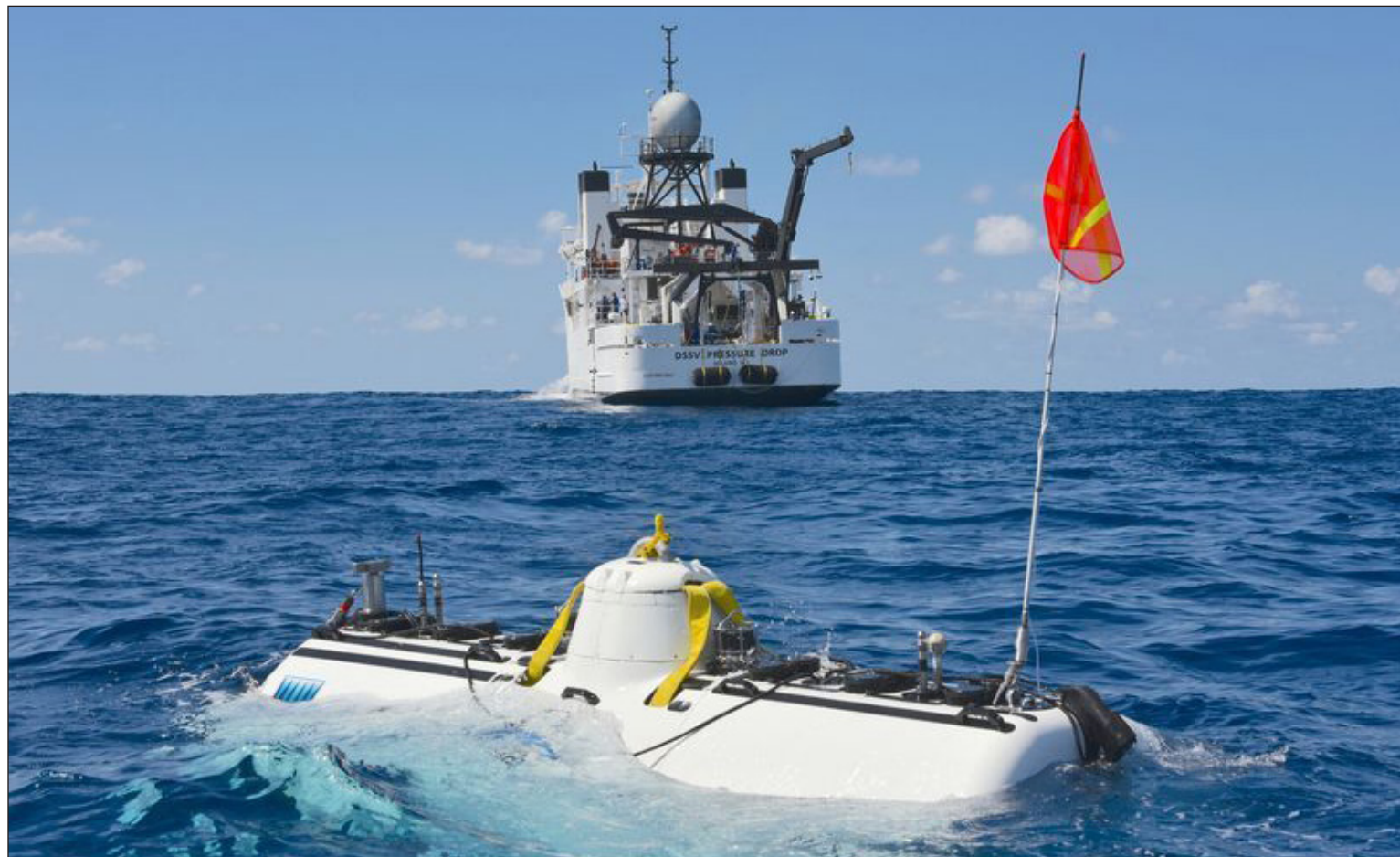


Photo courtesy of Daily Mirror

To boldly go ... five miles deep to discover new species of ocean creature.

OIMB to present lecture series

The World

CHARLESTON — The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB) will resume its quarterly public lecture series this fall with two public lectures, one from the British Isles and a second from South America.

The first, at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, will be presented by renowned deep-sea biologist Dr. Alan Jamieson, who will offer a live and interactive lecture by Zoom, direct from Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Participants can watch on their own computers, tablets or phones. The topic will be: "Exploration at full ocean depth: habitats and faunas of the deepest places on Earth."

Dr. Jamieson, the undisputed world authority on the biology of deep ocean trenches, recently led the highly publicized 5-seas expeditions that explored the deepest points in every ocean of the world. Jamieson will offer eye-witness accounts of the Mariana Trench and other hadal depths worldwide based on more than 65 oceanographic expeditions during his distinguished career. Next year, the 5-seas expedition will be featured in a 5-part Discovery Channel series "Expedition Deep Ocean." His



Marine expert Dr Alan Jamieson from Newcastle University aboard the tiny two-man sub.

lecture will give participants the unique opportunity to preview the science on which these programs are based. Dr. Jamieson's significant discoveries include the deepest living fishes in the ocean, supergiant amphipods in the Mariana Trench, and the presence of plastics in animals from extreme depths.

Members of the public can participate in the live broadcast at 10 a.m. (early, because of the time difference with England) by requesting the Zoom link and password in advance. Send an e-mail to Dr. Craig Young at

cmyoung@uoregon.edu with the words "OIMB public lecture" in the heading.

A recording of the lecture will also be available for viewing on Thursday evening, Oct. 8, at any time between 6-10 p.m. on the OIMB YouTube channel, <https://tinyurl.com/yxaxsn92>. No password is required for the evening viewing.

A second public lecture on the interface between science and art will be offered on Oct. 29. Further information is forthcoming.

For more information on OIMB, visit their web site at

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~oimb>.

Additional information about the speaker:

Dr. Alan Jamieson is a senior lecturer in deep-sea biology at Newcastle University, UK. He is the chief scientist on the 5-Deeps and Ring of Fire Expeditions (2018-2021). His research has made him a world leader in the biological exploration of the hadal zone (depths exceeding 6,000 meters). He has designed multiple Hadal-Landers and has deployed them over 450 times in the ultra-deep subduction trenches and surrounding areas in all oceans.

Dr. Jamieson has participated in, and often led, over 65 deep-sea expeditions covering every ocean and has been lucky enough to dive every ocean in a full ocean depth rated submersible. He has published over 100 scientific papers and sole authored the book "The Hadal Zone, life in the deepest oceans" in 2015. The highlights of his work include filming the deepest fish in the world multiple times, discovering supergiant amphipods in the hadal zone, having a hadal species named after him and filming in the deepest places on Earth,

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Hurricane Delta makes landfall in Mexico

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Delta made landfall Wednesday just south of the Mexican resort of Cancun as an extremely dangerous Category 2 storm, downing trees and knocking out power along the northeastern coast of Yucatan Peninsula, but without immediate reports of deaths or injuries.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said satellite imagery, radar data from Cuba and surface observations in Mexico indicate that the center of Delta came ashore around 5:30 a.m. local time, sustaining top winds of 110 mph (175 kmh).

Civil defense official Luis Alberto Ortega Vázquez said there were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries, but Delta had toppled about 95 trees and knocked out electricity to parts of Cancun and Cozumel. Ortega said about 39,000 people had been evacuated in the states of Quintana Roo and Yucatan, and that about 2,700 people had taken refuge in storm shelters in the two states.

Quintana Roo Gov. Carlos Joaquín said Wednesday morning that power had been knocked out to about half of customers in Cancun, Cozumel and Playa del Carmen. There were reports of some flooding in Cozumel and Playa del Carmen. Overnight emergency calls came in from people whose windows or doors were broken and they were taken to shelters, he said.

Joaquín said that within a couple of hours hotels that did not suffer serious damage could hopefully begin to bring their guests back from shelters. The storm was still over much of the state, but he said state officials would soon be evaluating damage.

Early Wednesday, guests of the Fiesta Americana Condesa hotel awoke in the sweltering classrooms of the Technological Institute of Cancun campus where they had been moved Tuesday.

All of the windows had been covered with plywood so they couldn't see what was happening, but they said the howling winds started around 2 a.m. and there had been heavy rain. The power — and with it the air conditioning — had been knocked out early Wednesday so it was steamy as tourists used their cell phone light to get up and make their way for a first cup of coffee.

"The hard part has been the waiting," said Ana Karen Rodríguez of Monterrey. She and a friend arrived in Cancun Tuesday morning and by afternoon were shuttled to the shelter. She said the hotel had planned well. "It's been good. I feel comfortable actually."

Throughout the day Tuesday, the situation had appeared grave for this stretch of the Mexican coast.

Delta had increased in strength by 80 mph in just 24 hours, and its top winds peaked at 145 mph (230 kph) before it weakened as

Please see **Hurricane**, Page 3

Pence-Harris hold vice president debate tonight

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger, California Sen. Kamala Harris, are set to face off in a debate that will offer starkly different visions for a country confronting escalating crises.

The debate Wednesday night in Salt Lake City is the most highly anticipated vice presidential debate in recent memory. It will unfold while President Donald Trump recovers at the White House after testing positive last week for the coronavirus and spending several days in the hospital, a serious setback for his campaign that adds pressure on Pence to defend the administra-

tion's handling of the pandemic.

For Harris, the debate is her highest profile opportunity to say how Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden would stabilize the United States, especially when it comes to the pandemic and racial injustice. She will have the chance to explain her views on law enforcement, an area in which she's viewed warily by some progressives, given her past as a prosecutor.

Ultimately, the debate is a chance for voters to decide whether Pence and Harris are in a position to step into the presidency at a moment's notice. It's hardly a theoretical question: The 74-year-old Trump is fighting

the virus and Biden, at 77, would become the oldest person elected president.

Pence's debate strategy aims to highlight the administration's economic record and attempt to portray the Democratic ticket as beholden to "radical left," said former GOP Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who is helping the vice president prepare for the debate, on "Fox & Friends."

While the debate will likely cover a range of topics, the virus will be at the forefront.

Pence and Harris will appear on stage exactly 12.25 feet (3.7 meters) apart separated by plexiglass barriers. Anyone in the small audience who refuses

to wear a mask will be asked to leave.

Pence was with Trump and others last week who have since tested positive, and the vice president has faced questions about whether he should be at the debate at all. Pence has repeatedly tested negative for the virus, and his staff and doctors insist he does not need to quarantine under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

The CDC defines risky "close contact" as being within 6 feet (1.8 meters) of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before the onset of symptoms or a positive

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eEdition

Oregon reports 301 new COVID-19 cases, 9 new deaths; 31 active cases in Coos County

The World

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed nine more lives in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 581, the Oregon Health Authority reported Tuesday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 301 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 35,340.

In Coos County, there are 31 active cases of COVID-19, with three current hospitalizations. There have been 28 new confirmed or presumptive cases in the past week in the county, according to Coos Health & Wellness. Total cases as of 8 a.m.

Oct. 6 include 135 confirmed and 51 presumptive and a total of 12 hospitalizations since the pandemic began. There have been no deaths in Coos County from COVID-19.

The new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported Tuesday are in the following counties: Baker (1), Benton (9), Clackamas (28), Clatsop (3), Columbia (3), Coos (7), Crook (1), Deschutes (12), Douglas (3), Hood River (1), Jackson (8), Jefferson (2), Josephine (1), Klamath (1), Lane (52), Lincoln (3), Linn (7), Malheur (9), Marion (34), Morrow (1), Multnomah (51), Polk (11), Umatilla (9), Union (1), Wallowa



(1), Wasco (1), Washington (30), and Yamhill (11).

Oregon's 573rd COVID-19 death is an 89-year-old woman in Marion County who tested positive on Sept. 16 and died on Oct. 5 in her residence. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 574th COVID-19 death is an 81-year-old woman in Washington County who tested positive on Sept. 22 and died on Oct. 3 at Prov-

idence St. Vincent Medical Center. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 575th COVID-19 death is a 64-year-old woman in Marion County who tested positive on Aug. 29 and died on Oct. 4 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 576th COVID-19 death is an 81-year-old man in Malheur County who tested

positive on Sept. 29 and died on Oct. 3 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 577th COVID-19 death is a 71-year-old man in Malheur County who tested positive on Sept. 8 and died on Oct. 5 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. He did not have underlying conditions.

Oregon's 578th COVID-19 death is a 61-year-old man in Malheur County who tested positive on Aug. 31 and died on Oct. 4 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 579th

COVID-19 death is a 72-year-old man in Clackamas County who tested positive on July 31 and died on Aug. 4. Place of death is being confirmed. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 580th COVID-19 death is a 93-year-old woman in Wasco County who tested positive on Sept. 18 and died on Sept. 26 in her residence. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon's 581st COVID-19 death is a 91-year-old woman in Multnomah County who died on Sept. 2 in her residence. The death certificate listed COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as a cause

Zero positives in OSU dorm and apartments

STEVE LUNDEBERG
Oregon State University

CORVALLIS — Oregon State University tested more than 300 people at two student housing facilities this past week for the virus that causes COVID-19 after evidence of the virus was found in the buildings' sewage, and all of the individuals tested were negative.

TRACE OSU wastewater investigators had detected moderate genetic signals of SARS-CoV-2 in sewer outflows from Sackett Hall on the west side of Oregon State University's Corvallis campus and the university-affiliated, privately owned GEM apartment building just north of campus.

In response to those genetic signals in sewage from Sackett Hall, 2901 Jefferson Way, and The GEM, 155 NW Kings Blvd., the university offered tests to everyone living in the two buildings; the students were given the choice of being tested or self-quarantining. The TRACE team began rapid response screening on Sept. 30 to determine if students living in those residences carried the virus.

One hundred eighty-three Sackett residents and 126 GEM residents were tested and none tested positive.

"We knew that it would be challenging to identify through our rapid response screening the person or few people in

each building whose waste contributed to the viral markers we found," said Steve Clark, vice president for university relations and marketing. "But we felt it important to attempt to do so to contribute to personal and public health.

"It is possible that those infected were not tested and instead chose to self-quarantine," Clark said. "It also is possible that the viral markers in the wastewater came from people who work at or visited the buildings, but were not tested. As well, OSU researchers know that people can continue to shed virus in wastewater long after disease symptoms have resolved and they are tested negative by nasal swab and no longer

infectious."

Dan Larson, Oregon State vice provost for student affairs and the leader of the university's COVID-19 response team, said the university's rapid response screening is part of OSU's resumption plan.

"Wastewater results are not cause for panic but rather simply illustrate the reason we have TRACE OSU in place," said Larson. "We're ready to respond appropriately and promptly wherever and whenever a response to our vigilant monitoring is needed."

Each week, TRACE OSU conducts random COVID-19 testing of up to 1,000 faculty, staff and students and wastewater analysis to monitor the

presence of the virus at Oregon State's campuses in Corvallis and Bend and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

"Wastewater results can be an early indicator and we are well positioned to respond with rapid testing of possibly affected OSU community members," said Ben Dalziel, TRACE director and an assistant professor in the OSU College of Science. "In addition, OSU is supporting contact tracing with Benton County, providing on-campus isolation and quarantine as advised and providing student support services."

The response screening of Sackett and GEM residents was done "out of an abundance of caution,"

Dalziel added.

TRACE OSU is an extension of the TRACE-COVID-19 public health project that began in April with door-to-door sampling in Corvallis and later expanded geographically to Newport, Bend and Hermiston and to include wastewater monitoring. The work helps determine community prevalence of the virus behind COVID-19.

With TRACE OSU, being tested for the novel coronavirus is voluntary but encouraged by the university. All current students, staff and faculty residing in the Corvallis, Newport and Newport areas are invited to register for possible testing by enrolling here.

Debate

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test.

Pence's team objected to Harris' request for plexiglass barriers, arguing it was medically unnecessary. But the Commission on Presidential Debates had already agreed to the barriers, and Pence's aides said their presence would not dissuade him from attending the event.

Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, said there is "zero risk" of the vice president pulling out of the debate over the plexiglass spat. He said Pence "will be there" because it's "too important for the American people."

Sabrina Singh, a spokesperson for Harris, said the senator "will be at the debate, respecting the

protections that the Cleveland Clinic has put in place to promote safety for all concerned." The Cleveland Clinic serves as a health adviser to the commission.

The debate is unlikely to be a repeat of the chaotic debate between Trump and Biden last week.

Pence is eager to seize on the Democrats' liberal policies, but it may be difficult to shift the conversation away from the Republican administration's uneven handling of the pandemic. Pence serves as chair of the president's coronavirus task force, which has failed to implement a comprehensive national strategy even as Trump himself recovers from the disease and the national death toll surges past 210,000 with no clear end in sight.

Biden has raised questions about whether he

will participate in his next scheduled debate with Trump, telling reporters on Tuesday: "I think if he still has COVID, then we shouldn't have a debate."

The vice president is a 61-year-old former Indiana governor and ex-radio host, an evangelical Christian known for his folksy charm and unwavering loyalty to Trump.

Harris is a 55-year-old California senator, the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother. She is also a former prosecutor whose pointed questioning of Trump's appointees and court nominees and cool charm on the campaign trail made her a Democratic star.

She will make history as the first Black woman to appear in a vice presidential debate. Democrats hope the historic nature of her candi-

dacy will help energize key groups of likely Democratic voters — African Americans and young people, in particular — who have shown less excitement for Biden.

It's unclear how aggressive the candidates will be with each other.

Both have adopted a cautious approach on the trail, keeping in line with past running mates who, above all, are tasked with not hurting their party's ticket.

Some Harris allies fear that a conservative approach will prevent her from shining.

"Overly scripting Kamala Harris is tantamount to removing five bullets out of her gun before you walk into a gun fight," said Nathan Barankin, who served as Harris' chief of staff in the Senate and when she was California attorney general.

While some Democrats have set high expectations for the debate, Harris and her allies have been trying to keep them low. Last month, when California's state Senate president told Harris on a Zoom call that home state fans were excited to watch her debate, Harris quickly interjected.

"He's a good debater," she said, laughing. "I'm just, I'm so concerned, like I can only disappoint."

Gender will likely play a role in the debate, Hillary Clinton, the first woman to lead a presidential ticket, said during a recent fundraiser.

She suggested Pence would try to paint Harris as "the inexperienced woman candidate." Harris will have to be mindful of the double standard for women in politics as she responds, Clinton said.

"She's got to be firm and effective in rebutting any implication that comes from the other side, but to do it in a way that doesn't, you know, scare or alienate voters," Clinton said.

Harris has been preparing for the debate in Salt Lake City since Saturday. Karen Dunn, a Washington lawyer who helped prepare Clinton for her 2016 debates against Trump, is leading Harris' debate preparations.

Harris plans to focus on failures of leadership by the Trump-Pence administration but avoid personal attacks against Trump, as Biden has done since the president was hospitalized for the virus, according to a campaign aide who wasn't authorized to discuss debate planning publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Trump halts COVID-19 relief talks until after election

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday called an abrupt end to negotiations with Democrats over additional COVID-19 relief, delaying action until after the election despite ominous warnings from his own Federal Reserve chairman about the deteriorating conditions in the economy.

Trump tweeted that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was “not negotiating in good faith” and said he’s asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to direct all his focus before the election into confirming his U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett.

“I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business,” Trump tweeted.

Hours later, Trump appeared to edge back a bit from his call to end negotiations. He took to Twitter again and called on Congress to send him a “Stand Alone Bill for Stimulus Checks (\$1,200)” — a reference to a pre-election batch of direct payments to most Americans that had been a central piece of negotiations between Pelosi and the White House. Pelosi has generally

rejected taking a piecemeal approach to COVID relief.

“I am ready to sign right now. Are you listening Nancy?” Trump said in a flurry of tweets Tuesday evening. He also called on Congress to immediately approve \$25 billion for airlines and \$135 billion the Paycheck Protection Program to help small businesses.

The unexpected turn could be a blow to Trump’s reelection prospects and comes as his administration and campaign are in turmoil. Trump is quarantining in the White House with a case of COVID, and the latest batch of opinion polls shows him significantly behind former Vice President Joe Biden with the election four weeks away.

The collapse means that Trump and down-ballot Republicans will face reelection without delivering aid to voters — such as the \$1,200 direct payments, or “Trump checks,” to most individuals — even as the national jobless rate is about 8% with millions facing the threat of eviction. One endangered Republican, Maine Sen. Susan Collins, said “waiting until after the election to reach an agreement on the next Covid-19 relief package is a huge mistake.”

Former Vice President Joe Biden slammed Trump’s move.

“Make no mistake: if you are out of work, if your business is closed, if your child’s school is shut down, if you are seeing layoffs in your community, Donald Trump decided today that none of that — none of it — matters to him,” Biden said in a statement released by his campaign.

Trump’s move came immediately after he spoke with the top GOP leaders in Congress, who had been warily watching talks between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Pelosi. Many Senate Republicans had signaled they would not be willing to go along with any stimulus legislation that topped \$1 trillion, and GOP aides had been privately dismissive of the prospects for a deal.

Just on Saturday, tweeting from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Trump said, “OUR GREAT USA WANTS & NEEDS STIMULUS. WORK TOGETHER AND GET IT DONE.” But any Pelosi-sponsored agreement of close to \$2 trillion raised the potential of a GOP revolt if it came to a vote.

Last week, the White House said it was backing a \$400 per week pandemic jobless benefit and dangled the possibility of a COVID-19 relief bill of \$1.6 trillion. But that offer was rejected by Pelosi, who continued to take a hard

line in the talks, including insisting on repeal of a \$254 billion GOP business tax break passed in the March package as a way to finance additional relief.

Pelosi had spoken with Mnuchin earlier Tuesday. After Trump’s tweets spiking the negotiations, Pelosi said Trump was “unwilling to crush the virus” and “refuses to give real help to poor children, the unemployed, and America’s hard working families.”

Trump broke off talks after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned earlier Tuesday that the economic recovery remains fragile seven months into coronavirus pandemic without further economic stimulus.

Stocks dropped suddenly on Wall Street after Trump ordered a stop to negotiations. The Dow Jones Industrial Average swung instantly from a gain of about 200 points to a loss of about 300 points.

Powell, in remarks before the National Association for Business Economics, made clear that too little support “would lead to a weak recovery, creating unnecessary hardship for households and businesses.”

Trump cited Pelosi’s demands for state and local governments as a key reason for pulling out of the talks. Pelosi and Mnuchin were far apart on that issue — with Trump offering \$250 billion while Pelosi was holding out for more

than \$400 billion. And Pelosi was asking for a higher weekly jobless benefit and refundable tax credits for the working poor, among other provisions.

Early rounds of COVID relief passed by overwhelming margins as the economy went into lockdown in March. After that, Trump and many of his GOP allies focused more on loosening social and economic restrictions as the key to recovery instead of more taxpayer-funded aid.

Still, the decision to halt negotiations could be politically risky with just four weeks to go before Election Day. While the stock market has clawed much of its way back after cratering in the early weeks of the crisis, unemployment stands at 7.9%, and the nearly 10 million jobs that remain lost since the start of the pandemic exceed the number that the nation shed during the entire 2008-09 Great Recession.

White House officials did not immediately respond to a request for further explanation of the timing of the president’s decision to halt negotiations.

Tim Murtaugh, a Trump campaign spokesman, pushed back against the notion that breaking off negotiations could hurt the president at the ballot box.

“Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Congressional Democrats have not been honest brokers,” Murtaugh said. “They would

rather have a political issue to help Joe Biden than act to help Americans. It’s despicable.”

McConnell told reporters on Capitol Hill he supported Trump’s decision.

While Trump said he’ll immediately restart talks in November if he wins reelection, a Biden victory could mean the economy would go without further stimulus until February.

The economy has recovered more quickly than most economists had expected, so far, largely because of the stimulus Congress approved in a \$2 trillion package in March. The \$1,200 stimulus checks, supplemental \$600 unemployment benefits each week, and aid to small businesses boosted household incomes and enabled many low-income Americans to pay bills and rent and maintain their overall spending, according to data from Opportunity Insights.

But the recovery has slowed and certain sectors such as restaurants, hotels, theaters and airlines remain in bad shape, shedding jobs and risking permanent realignment. Without more stimulus, economists expect growth will slow significantly in the final three months of the year.

“You’re going to see quite a significant drag on growth,” said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm. It “would really risk a double-dip recession.”

Testing

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said more than 100 million rapid antigen tests will be divided throughout the United States through the end of 2020. Oregon is expected to receive roughly 80,000 tests per week.

“This is huge,” Gov. Brown said. “But let me be very clear with all of you, it’s not going to solve all of our problems or answer all of the questions about the virus.”

Allen said OHA is looking forward to utilizing this increase in testing capacity that should double what Oregon has right now.

“This added capacity also allows us to expand our testing guidelines,” Allen noted. “Under new guidelines, we are not only recommending testing for everyone that has the symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of the severity of their symptoms, we’re

also recommending testing of all close contacts of people infected, regardless of whether the close contact has any symptoms.”

The increased testing will be used to identify more cases and spots where the virus is hiding in communities, while also cutting off paths of spread. Testing will be prioritized for most vulnerable communities, migrant, agriculture workers, communities of color and senior citizens.

Although testing is a great tool for health care workers, Gov. Brown said it is not a “cure-all.”

“We cannot test our way out of this pandemic,” Gov. Brown said.

Dr. Sutton gave a few details on the rapid antigen tests that have “strengths and limitations,” according to Allen. Dr. Sutton said although the tests are very reliable in identifying a positive COVID-19 case, it is also not uncommon to receive a false negative,

even if you have symptoms.

Regardless of the test result, health officials continue to urge individuals to follow safety recommendations of washing your hands, staying 6 feet apart and wearing a face covering. OHA is also recommending everyone getting their flu vaccine as well.

Additionally, Gov. Brown said the increased testing won’t allow re-opening of schools on its own. OHA and the state will be reevaluating school metrics in the coming weeks.

“We will get there,” Gov. Brown said. “Just remember, when you’re having a tough COVID day, always know that there is someone nearby that’s feeling the same way you are and is continuing with all of these safety measures because we all know that the more we do them together, the quicker we will find a way out of this crisis.”

Lecture

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on Earth, the Sirena Deep and Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench. His work has featured

in the BBCs Blue Planet II, NHKs Deep Ocean, Descend into the Mariana Trench documentaries and the forthcoming Discovery Channels Expedition: Deep Ocean series. His discoveries have received extensive

international media coverage, in particular his work on the discovery of anthropogenic contaminants and microplastic particles and fibers residing within organisms from the deepest places on Earth.

Hurricane

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it neared the shore. Forecasters warned it was still an extremely dangerous storm nevertheless, with a life-threatening storm surge that could raise water levels 9 to 13 feet (2.7 to 4 meters), along with large and dangerous waves and flash flooding inland.

Thousands of Quintana Roo residents and tourists were hunkering down in government shelters. Everyone had been ordered off the streets by 7 p.m.

The evacuations of low lying areas, islands and the coastline expanded as Delta exploded over the warm Caribbean waters offshore. Much of Cancun’s hotel zone was cleared out as guests were bused to inland shelters. In Cancun alone, the government opened 160 shelters.

State tourism officials said more than 40,000 tourists were in Quintana Roo, a fraction of what would normally be there. Delta’s damage comes on top of months of pandemic-induced lockdown that

has devastated the state’s tourism industry.

At the Cancun Convention Center, 400 tourists from hotels and rental properties bunked for the night.

“We hope that in this place we are surely much safer,” Quintana Roo Tourism Secretary Marisol Vanegas said. “This is a structure that has withstood other hurricanes.”

Delta was forecast to spend several hours lashing the Yucatan Peninsula before moving into the Gulf of Mexico and growing into a “considerably larger” storm before striking the U.S. Gulf coast. People in Louisiana or Mississippi should prepare now for hurricane-force winds to begin hitting their coastlines on Friday, the hurricane center advised.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said Delta was expected to make landfall there Friday night or Saturday morning and the entire state is in the storm’s possible path. State and local officials in coastal areas were shoring up levees, sandbagging and taking other protections measures, he said.

Louisiana is still re-

covering from Hurricane Laura, which ravaged the southwestern region as it roared ashore as a Category 4 storm in August. More than 6,600 Laura evacuees remain in hotels around the state, mainly in New Orleans, because their homes are too heavily damaged to return.

Mexico put the commander of its navy in charge of the federal response. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Tuesday that 5,000 federal troops and emergency personnel were being made available in Quintana Roo to aid in storm efforts.

Juan Carlos Avila arrived at the Technological Institute of Cancun shelter with his seven-months pregnant wife, Joselyn, and their 3-year-old-son, Alexander. He said Tuesday evening the staff had made them comfortable and seemed well prepared.

The family, which lives in Miami, had been in Cancun a week and already went through Tropical Storm Gamma, which soaked the area over the weekend.

“We’ve practically lived in storms during our stay here in Cancun,” Avila said.

The World

COOS BAY — The Coos Bay School District’s Board of Directors announces two opening on its budget committee for positions No. 6 and No. 7, terms expiring June 30, 2023.

Interested people living within the district boundary should sub-



mit a letter of interest postmarked by March 1, 2021. Applicants must

be a registered voter. A letter of interest can be addressed to Coos Bay Public Schools, Attn: Board of Directors, 1255 Hemlock Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420.

For more information about the Coos Bay School District’s budget committee and its work, call the superintendent’s office at 541-267-1310.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

Researching family history exposes old murder charges

DEAR ABBY: While researching my family, I discovered that my now-elderly mother was charged with the murder of a toddler 40 years ago, before I was born. She was never convicted and never mentioned it. However, after reading her testimony and things she’s said after the incident, I have no doubt she is guilty.

This has me reeling because she has always been a great and loving mother. When she heard I was researching our family, she mentioned that I would find something unsavory and asked me to please not look into it because it’s in the past and she didn’t want it to tarnish my image of her. I don’t know how to feel or what to do. -- SHOCKED IN THE WEST

DEAR SHOCKED: If your mother was charged with murder, either the charges were dropped or she was found innocent by a jury. You wrote that your mother was a great and loving mother. For that you should feel grateful because not all children are so fortunate as you were. I think it’s time for you to take the opportunity to get her side of the story. Unless you have all the facts, the last thing you should do is judge her.

DEAR ABBY: My sweet, introverted son has just started high school. He’s a shy person who has a hard time making friends, and the few friends he had in middle school aren’t attending the same high school. He has confided that he is terrified that he will be bullied and won’t know how to respond. He asked me if there was a phrase that repels bullies. I told him I don’t know any and I would ask you. -- WORRIED MOM

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Like your son, many students transitioning to high school are afraid of the unknown. Why is he afraid of being bullied? Did it happen to him in middle school? If so, why? Many schools have antibullying policies in place, and students who are subjected to it should report it immediately.

While I know of no one-size-fits-all phrase that will repel a bully, I do

think that enrolling your son in martial arts classes would give him a sense of confidence that he is lacking now. You should also encourage him to get involved with special interest groups at his new school, which might enable him to meet and interact with more kids and possibly make new friends.

DEAR ABBY: My husband insists that I go out in public without wearing any underwear. He thinks it’s sexy. I am uncomfortable doing this because it makes me feel dirty and trashy. I also feel it is unsanitary. Your thoughts? -- NOT MY THING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NOT: I’m glad you asked. Dirty and trashy are separate issues from unsanitary. You are a married adult woman, and wearing or not wearing anything under your dresses or skirts has no bearing on whether you are (or aren’t) a “good” girl.

I imagine some couples go out for a special night on the town “commando” because it’s exciting, their secret, and maybe can lead to romance later. Some people also feel more comfortable never wearing underwear. If you have questions about whether the practice is unhealthy, discuss it with your physician or gynecologist.

Bottom line, you should not do anything you’re uncomfortable with.

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.)

US officials defend integrity of election

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four weeks ahead of Election Day, senior national security officials provided fresh assurances about the integrity of the elections in a video message Tuesday, putting them at odds with President Donald Trump’s efforts to discredit the vote.

“I’m here to tell you that my confidence in the security of your vote has never been higher,” Chris Krebs, the director of the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said in the video message. “That’s because of an all-of-nation, unprecedented election security

effort over the last several years.”

The video appeared to be aimed at soothing jangled nerves of voters ahead of an election made unique by an expected surge in mail-in ballots because of the coronavirus pandemic. Though Trump was not mentioned during the nine-minute video, the message from the speakers served as a tacit counter to his repeated efforts, including in last week’s presidential debate, to allege widespread fraud in the mail ballot process and to preemptively cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election.

The video was released as U.S. officials have revealed ongoing foreign efforts to interfere in the election, including Russian attempts to denigrate Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. A recent blog post by Microsoft described election-related hacking attempts by Russian, Chinese and Iranian agents.

William Evanina, the U.S. government’s chief counterintelligence official, said in Tuesday’s video that foreign adversaries are spreading disinformation, engaging in influence operations, conducting cyber activities with the

intent of gaining access to election infrastructure and trying to collect derogatory information on candidates, campaigns and prominent Americans.

“Despite these nefarious efforts, our election system remains resilient,” said Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. “To be clear, it would be very difficult for adversaries to interfere with or manipulate voting results at scale.”

The officials conceded that the Nov. 3 election will be different than past ones because of the millions of Americans expected

to vote by mail. But they offered no support for the idea that mail-balloting will be tainted by fraud or foreign interference as they detailed the steps their agencies are taking to safeguard the vote.

“No matter which method you choose, your voice is important,” said FBI Director Chris Wray. “Rest assured that the security of the election, and safeguarding your vote is, and will continue to be one of our highest priorities,” Wray said.

In an acknowledgment that the tallying of election results may be delayed not by fraud but for legitimate reasons, Krebs said the

outcome of the vote may not be known on Nov. 3 — “and that’s OK. But we’re going to need your patience until official results are announced.”

The four officials described the work of their respective agencies in countering foreign interference and influence operations, with Gen. Paul Nakasone, the head of the National Security Agency and commander of U.S. Cyber Command, describing efforts to “hunt” adversaries in cyberspace, attribute particular malicious software to individual culprits and impose costs for attacks.

Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies of cancer

NEW YORK (AP) — Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock’s biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65.

A person close to Van Halen’s family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorized to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement.

“He was the best father I could ask for,” Van Halen’s son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. “Every moment I’ve shared with him on and off stage was a gift.”

With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fueled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band’s self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record “1984,” which contains the classics “Jump,” “Panama” and “Hot for Teacher.”

Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. Rolling Stone magazine put Eddie Van Halen at No. 8 in its list of the 100 greatest guitarists.

Eddie Van Halen was something of a musical contradiction. He was an autodidact who could play almost any instrument, but he couldn’t read music. He was a

classically trained pianist who also created some of the most distinctive guitar riffs in rock history. He was a Dutch immigrant who was considered one of the greatest American guitarists of his generation.

Honors came from the music world, from Lenny Kravitz to Kenny Chesney. “You changed our world. You were the Mozart of rock guitar. Travel safe, rockstar,” Motley Crue’s Nikki Sixx said on Twitter. Added Lenny Kravitz: “Heaven will be electric tonight.”

The members of Van Halen — the two Van Halen brothers, Eddie and Alex; vocalist David Lee Roth; and bassist Michael Anthony — formed in 1974 in Pasadena, California. They were members of rival high school bands and then attended Pasadena City College together. They combined to form the band Mammoth, but then changed to Van Halen after discovering there was another band called Mammoth.

Their 1978 release “Van Halen” opened with a blistering “Runnin’ With the Devil” and then Eddie Van Halen showed off his astonishing skills in the next song, “Eruption,” a furious 1:42 minute guitar solo that swoops and soars like a deranged bird. The album also contained a cover of the Kinks’ “You Really Got Me” and “Ain’t Talkin’ ‘Bout Love.”

Van Halen released albums on a yearly

timetable — “Van Halen II” (1979), “Women and Children First” (1980), “Fair Warning” (1981) and “Diver Down” (1982) — until the monumental “1984,” which hit No. 2 on the Billboard 200 album charts (only behind Michael Jackson’s “Thriller”). Rolling Stone ranked “1984” No. 81 on its list of the 100 Greatest Albums of the 1980s.

“Eddie put the smile back in rock guitar, at a time when it was all getting a bit brooding. He also scared the hell out of a million guitarists around the world, because he was so damn good. And original,” Joe Satriani, a fellow virtuoso, told Billboard in 2015.

Van Halen also played guitar on one of the biggest singles of the 1980s: Jackson’s “Beat It.” His solo lasted all of 20 seconds and took only a half an hour to record. He did it as a favor to producer Quincy Jones, while the rest of his Van Halen bandmates were out of town.

Van Halen received no compensation or credit for the work, even though he rearranged the section he played on. “It was 20 minutes of my life. I didn’t want anything for doing that,” he told Billboard in 2015. “I literally thought to myself, ‘Who is possibly going to know if I play on this kid’s record?’” Rolling Stone ranked “Beat It” No. 344 on its list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. Jackson’s melding of hard rock and R&B

preceded the meeting of Run-DMC and Aerosmith by four years.

But strains between Roth and the band erupted after their 1984 world tour and Roth left. The group then recruited Sammy Hagar as lead singer — some critics called the new formulation “Van Hagar” — and the band went on to score its first No. 1 album with “5150,” More studio albums followed, including “OU812,” “For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge” and “Balance.” Hit singles included “Why Can’t This Be Love” and “When It’s Love.”

Hagar was ousted in 1996 and former Extreme singer Gary Cherone stepped in for the album “Van Halen III,” a stumble that didn’t lead to another album and the quick departure of Cherone. Roth would eventually return in 2007 and team up with the Van Halen brothers and Wolfgang Van Halen on bass for a tour, the album “A Different Kind of Truth” and the 2015 album “Tokyo Dome Live in Concert.”

Van Halen’s music has appeared in films as varied as “Superbad,” “Minions” and “Sing” as well as TV shows like “Glee” and “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.” Video games such as “Gran Turismo 4” and “Guitar Hero” have used his riffs. Their song “Jamie’s Cryin” was sampled by rapper Tone Loc in his hit “Wild Thing.”

For much of his career, Eddie Van Halen

wrote and experimented with sounds while drunk or high or both. He revealed that he would stay in his hotel room drinking vodka and snorting cocaine while playing into a tape recorder. (Hagar’s 2011 autobiography “Red: My Uncensored Life in Rock” portrays Eddie as a violent, booze-addled vampire, living inside a garbage-strewn house.)

“I didn’t drink to party,” Van Halen told Billboard. “Alcohol and cocaine were private things to me. I would use them for work. The blow keeps you awake and the alcohol lowers your inhibitions. I’m sure there were musical things I would not have attempted were I not in that mental state.”

Eddie Van Halen was born in Amsterdam and his family immigrated to California in 1962 when he was 7. His father was a big band clarinetist who rarely found work after coming to the U.S., and their mother was a maid who had dreams of her sons being classical pianists. The Van Halens shared a house with three other families. Eddie and Alex had only each other, a tight relationship that flowed through their music.

“We showed up here with the equivalent of \$50 and a piano,” Eddie Van Halen told The Associated Press in 2015. “We came halfway around the world without money, without a set job, no place to live and couldn’t even speak the

language.”

He said his earliest memories of music were banging pots and pans together, marching to John Philip Sousa marches. At one point, Eddie got a drum set, which his older brother coveted.

“I never wanted to play guitar,” he confessed at a talk at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in 2015. But his brother was good at the drums, so Eddie gave into his brother’s wishes: “I said, ‘Go ahead, take my drums. I’ll play your damn guitar.’”

He was a relentless experimenter who would solder different parts from different guitar-makers, including Gibson and Fender. He created his own graphic design for his guitars by adding tape to the instruments and then spray-painting them. He said his influences were Eric Clapton, and Jimi Hendrix.

Van Halen, sober since 2008, lost one-third of his tongue to a cancer that eventually drifted into his esophagus. In 1999, he had a hip replacement. He was married twice, to actress Valerie Bertinelli from 1981 to 2007 and then to stuntwoman-turned-publicist Janie Liszewski, whom he wed in 2009.

“I’m so grateful Wolfie and I were able to hold you in your last moments,” Bertinelli wrote on Instagram, showing an image of their baby son. “I will see you in our next life.”

U.S. trade deficit sets 14-year high in August

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit rose in August to the highest level in 14 years.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that the gap between the goods and services the United States sells and what it buys abroad climbed 5.9% in August to \$67.1 billion, highest since August 2006. Exports rose 2.2% to \$171.9 billion on a surge in shipments of soybeans, but imports rose more — up

3.2% to \$239 billion — led by purchases of crude oil, cars and auto parts.

The U.S. deficit with the rest of the world in the trade of goods such as airplanes and appliances set a record \$83.9 billion in August. The United States ran a surplus of \$16.8 billion in the trade of services such as banking and education, lowest since January 2012.

The politically sensitive deficit in the trade of goods with China fell

6.7% to \$26.4 billion.

So far this year, the United States has recorded a trade gap of \$421.8 billion, up 5.7% from January-August 2019.

Hammered by the coronavirus and its fallout on the world economy, total U.S. trade -- exports plus imports -- is down 15.1% so far this year to \$3.2 trillion.

“Overall, trade flows remain subdued and the outlook is uncertain given a muted global growth and

demand backdrop,” said Rubeeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

President Donald Trump campaigned on a pledge to bring down America’s persistent trade deficits. He imposed taxes on imports of steel, aluminum and most products from China, among other things; and renegotiated a North American trade pact in an effort to encourage more production in the United States.

But the trade deficit won’t yield easily to changes in trade policy. As the U.S. economy recovers from springtime shutdowns, Americans are buying more imported goods while foreign demand for U.S. products remains weak.

In an unusual move, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer issued a statement on the monthly trade deficit report Tuesday, defending the president’s record.

Lighthizer noted that the U.S. deficit in the trade of goods is down 2.4% so far this year and would have fallen more if it weren’t for a surge in gold imports by investors using the precious metal to hedge against risks at a time of considerable uncertainty.

He also said: “The trade deficit increased in August because America’s economy has recovered more quickly than our trade partners.”

Facebook will ban groups that openly support QAnon

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Facebook said it will ban groups that openly support QAnon, the baseless conspiracy theory that paints President Donald Trump as a secret warrior against a supposed child-trafficking ring run by celebrities and “deep state” government officials.

The company said Tuesday that it will remove Facebook pages, groups and Instagram accounts for “representing QAnon” — even if they don’t promote violence. The social network said it will consider a variety of factors to decide if a group meets its criteria for a ban, including its

name, the biography or “about” section of the page, and discussions within the page, group or Instagram account.

Mentions of QAnon in a group focused on a different subject won’t necessarily lead to a ban, Facebook said. Administrators of banned groups will have their personal accounts disabled as well.

Less than two months ago, Facebook said it would stop promoting the group and its adherents, although it faltered with spotty enforcement. It said it would only remove QAnon groups if they promote violence. That is no longer the case.

The company said it started to enforce the policy Tuesday but cautioned that it “will take time and will continue in the coming days and weeks.”

Critics called it a much-needed, though belated, move by Facebook.

“Now that they have announced that they will treat the QAnon ideology like the very real threat that it is, we hope that they will follow up with some modicum of evidence showing how the ban is being enforced and whether it is fully effective,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League and one of the

founders of the Stop Hate for Profit campaign, which organized a Facebook boycott by advertisers.

But the conspiracy theory has already seeped into mainstream politics. Several Republican running for Congress this year are QAnon-friendly.

By the time Facebook and other social media companies began enforcing — however limited — policies against QAnon, critics said it was largely too late. Reddit, which began banning QAnon groups in 2018, was well ahead, and to date it has largely avoided having a notable QAnon presence on its platform.

“We’ve seen several issues that led to today’s update,” Facebook said in a blog post. “While we’ve removed QAnon content that celebrates and supports violence, we’ve seen other QAnon content tied to different forms of real world harm, including recent claims that the west coast wildfires were started by certain groups, which diverted attention of local officials from fighting the fires and protecting the public.”

Twitter did not immediately respond to a message for comment on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Citigroup Inc. reportedly fired

a manager in its technology department after an investigation found that he operated a prominent website dedicated to QAnon. According to Bloomberg, Jason Gelinis had been placed on paid leave after he was identified on Sept. 10 by a fact-checking site as the operator of the website QMap.pub and its associated mobile apps.

In a statement, Citi confirmed that Gelinis is no longer with the company and added that employees are required to abide by its code of conduct. This includes disclosing and obtaining permission for outside business activity.

eEdition

Supporters mirror Trump’s rosy projection of virus

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — As an infected President Donald Trump urged Americans not to fear the virus that has killed more than 1 million people worldwide, many of his supporters were already in sync with that message.

In interviews with Republican voters at Trump events and campaign offices, very few saw the president’s illness as a cautionary tale. None said they would change their personal approach to masks or distancing, and many expressed a confidence that the disease was less dangerous than advertised.

In Ohio, a “Women for Trump” group gathered indoors — many maskless and not distanced — to pray for the president’s recovery. In Nevada, a Reno businessman dismissed the threat of the pandemic as “overplayed.” Nearby, another Trump backer shrugged off any second thoughts about having cheered at a Trump campaign event last week as part of a maskless crowd.

“I think most of us have reached the realization that, at some point, we’re probably going catch it, and have to deal with

it anyway,” Ken Gray, a county commissioner from Dayton, Nevada, shortly before the president returned to the White House after three days of treatment for COVID-19 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Trump’s “don’t be afraid” takeaway is infuriating public health experts — who note that basic prevention measures do work contain the spread of the deadly virus. It’s also angering family members of those who have died. But for many of Trump’s supporters, the president was merely adopting an attitude they expect, and they themselves reflect, when it comes to the pandemic.

They view Trump’s infection as almost inevitable. Some were amazed he’d made it this far before getting sick.

“It’s October and he’s just now getting it,” said 18-year-old Taylor Adams, a first-time voter, at the women’s meeting in Ohio. Adams even commended the president for not contracting the disease sooner. “I think that he’s definitely going to pull through. But I’m not surprised that he did get it eventually.”

The comments were a testament to the power of Trump’s messaging, widely seen as misleading by public health experts. Throughout the pandemic, the president’s public portrayal of the virus has been rosier than reality. He’s routinely brushed off the severity of the outbreak and dismissed expert advice on mask wearing and social distancing. On Tuesday, he compared the virus to the seasonal flu, suggesting it was something that should be “learned to live with.”

In fact, COVID-19 has proven to be a more potent killer than the flu, particularly among older people, and has shown indications of having long-term impacts on the health of younger people it infects.

Trump acknowledged to journalist Bob Woodward that he “wanted to always play it down” because he did not want to cause panic. Among many supporters, that appears to have worked. Trump voters interviewed this week were almost blase about their president’s health scare, describing it as an unavoidable part of his work and travel schedule. “I don’t find it surpris-

ing. The president has spent much of the year around the country, with supporters, campaigning for another four years,” said Ohio resident Brenda Parsons, 58.

As women supporting Trump gathered at an office building in Canton, a battleground area in the state’s northeast, few wore masks.

They sat closer than the recommended six feet apart. They posed for photos with a life-size cutout of the president and a giant mural of a bald eagle wearing a “Make America Great Again” hat, and chanted “four more years!”

They prayed for the president and First Lady Melania Trump, who contracted the disease along with others in the White House.

“I pray and know the president’s positive mindset combined with his faith in Jesus is what will help him pull through this,” Parsons said.

It’s unclear exactly how Trump got infected. He has traveled steadily for weeks for his reelection campaign, sometimes holding events indoors, where experts say the

virus is more likely to spread. The White House required testing for anyone in close proximity to the president, but masks and social distancing practices were lax. Even now, masks at the White House are a matter of “personal choice” except for National Security Council staffers, who are required to wear them.

Trump’s supporters don’t view these practices as irresponsible and were largely quick to dismiss the level of risk involved.

Kathy Burke, a Reno retiree who dropped by her local Trump campaign office Monday afternoon to pick up more campaign signs, was wearing a Trump face mask, a precaution she said she already took before Trump’s diagnosis. She too saw the president’s infection as inevitable.

“Anybody could get it. I could get it,” Burke said.

Rick Zirpolo, a Reno businessman who eschewed a mask outside, said he had no qualms with the way Trump has portrayed or confronted the deadly threat.

“From day one, I’ve thought the whole virus has been overplayed and

used as a political tool,” he said.

Zirpolo praised the president for briefly leaving the hospital over the weekend for a drive-by to wave to supporters, despite his infection. And he said Trump was right to leave the hospital Monday to return to the White House.

“I think it’s outstanding because it shows his commitment to the nation,” he said.

Across the country, in Newberry, South Carolina, Scott Gardner, a teacher and coach, felt differently. He didn’t blame the president for having contracted COVID-19, given its pervasive nature and ease of transmission.

But the 50-year-old who supported Trump in 2016 and planned to again this year, hoped the president would change his behavior. The experience should serve as a “wakeup call” to employ more social distancing and masking, especially in a crowd.

“I guess it should be an eye opener,” said Gardner. “But if you’re going to get out of your basement, you’re going to have a chance to catch it.”

Montana governor asks court to block actions by BLM chief

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The governor of Montana on Monday asked a judge to block three sweeping land use plans that would open most U.S.-owned lands in the state to energy development, saying the documents were invalidated when the Trump administration’s public lands boss was removed for being in the post unlawfully.

A judge last month ousted Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director William Perry Pendley from his post as acting director, where he had been for more than a year without a confirmation vote from the U.S. Senate to lead the agency as required under the Constitution.

The ruling, in a lawsuit brought by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, marked a stinging rebuke against the Trump administration’s practice of keeping unconfirmed officials in some key leadership posts by issuing them repeated “temporary” authorizations.

Administration officials rejected the claim that Pendley had illegally led the bureau and said Monday they would ask the court to leave in place any decisions made under his watch.

Bullock, a Democrat, told The Associated Press in an interview that all actions undertaken during Pendley’s 424 days atop the agency are now subject to legal challenge. Those include oil and gas leasing decisions in Montana and

other states and, potentially, a reorganization of the bureau under President Donald Trump that shifted some of its operations to Western states, according to legal filings from Bullock’s attorneys.

But Bullock said he was contesting only actions that directly affect Montana, leaving it to other states or conservation groups to challenge any additional work or decisions made under Pendley’s watch.

The agency oversees almost a quarter-billion acres of land, primarily in the U.S. West.

Pendley, a former oil industry and property rights attorney from Wyoming, had called for selling off public lands until he joined the administration and disavowed that stance. He’s helped usher the land bureau through a series of moves that eased rules for industry but seen pushback from federal judges.

Under his oversight, federal officials rejected concerns raised by Montana residents and officials over the amount of land that could be subject to drilling and the elimination of conservation protections under newly-adopted land use plans for much of eastern, central and western Montana.

“Certainly, there’s going to be resource development. But let’s actually listen to the people on the ground along the way,” Bullock said. “This ought to be a very public, bottom-up driven process.”

The governor added that

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt’s vow to retain Pendley in a leadership role amounted to a potential “bait and switch” in defiance of the Sept 25 order from U.S. District Judge Brian Morris that removed Pendley.

Interior officials argued that none of the bureau’s actions should be overturned because Bernhardt had the legal authority to delegate decision-making. They’ve vowed to appeal.

Agency spokesman Ben Goldey reiterated comments made by Bernhardt to a Colorado news outlet last week that environmentalists’ “hopes and dreams are about to be crushed” if they believed Pendley’s removal would invalidate his actions.

Conservationists who challenged Pendley’s legitimacy in a separate lawsuit from Bullock’s are also seeking to oust Margaret Everson, the top official at the National Park Service, on similar grounds. Erik Molvar with Western Watersheds Project, one of the plaintiffs in the case, said any decisions made by Everson or others who served temporarily in the same role fall could fall under the same cloud that now hangs over Pendley’s actions.

“If an employee is illegally serving and illegally directing an agency and has been involved in decision they have no legal authority to make, the validity of those decisions is deeply in question,” Molvar said.

their weapons, striking the suspect,” police said. The man was then taken to a hospital.

The victims were treated for injuries and released the following day from the hospital, the sheriff’s office said.

The two officers who fired their weapons have been placed on critical incident leave, which is standard procedure after incidents in which officers fire their weapons. The officers have not yet been identified.

Scientists share Nobel prize for gene-editing tool

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a way of editing genes likened to “molecular scissors” that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna came up with a method known as CRISPR-cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms. It was the first time two women have won the chemistry Nobel together — adding to the small number of female laureates in the sciences, where women have long received less recognition for their work than men.

The scientists’ work allows for laser-sharp snips in the long strings of DNA that make up the “code of life,” allowing researchers to precisely edit specific genes to remove errors that lead to disease.

“There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all,” said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. “It has not only revolutionized basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments.”

Gustafsson said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited “to fix genetic damage.”

Dr. Francis Collins, who led the drive to map the human genome, said the technology “has changed everything” about how to approach diseases with a genetic cause, such as sickle cell disease.

“You can draw a direct line from the success of the human genome project to the power of CRISPR-cas to make changes in the instruction book,” said Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health that helped fund Doudna’s work.

But many also cautioned that the technology must be used carefully and that it raises serious ethical questions. Much of the world became more aware of CRISPR in 2018,

when Chinese scientist He Jiankui revealed he had helped make the world’s first gene-edited babies, to try to engineer resistance to future infection with the AIDS virus. His work was denounced as unsafe human experimentation because of the risk of causing unintended changes that could pass to future generations, and he’s currently imprisoned in China.

In September, an international panel of experts issued a report saying it’s still too soon to try to make genetically edited babies because the science isn’t advanced enough to ensure safety, but they mapped a pathway for countries that want to consider it.

“Being able to selectively edit genes means that you are playing God in a way,” said American Chemistry Society President Luis Echegoyen, a chemistry professor at the University of Texas El Paso.

Charpentier, 51, spoke of the shock of winning.

“Strangely enough I was told a number of times (that I’d win), but when it happens you’re very surprised and you feel that it’s not real,” she told reporters by phone from Berlin after the award was announced in Stockholm by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. “But obviously it’s real, so I have to get used to it now.”

When asked about the significance of two women winning, Charpentier said that while she considers herself first and foremost a scientist, she hoped it would encourage others.

“I wish that this will provide a positive message to young girls who would like to follow the path of science,” said Charpentier, who is currently the director of the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens in Berlin.

Doudna told The Associated Press of her own surprise — including that she learned she’d won from a reporter.

“I literally just found out, I’m in shock,” she said. “I was sound asleep.”

“My greatest hope is that it’s used for good, to uncov-

er new mysteries in biology and to benefit humankind,” said Doudna, who is affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley and is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports AP’s Health and Science Department.

The breakthrough research done by Charpentier and Doudna was published in 2012, making the discovery very recent compared to many Nobel wins that are often only honored after decades have passed.

Speaking to reporters later at her lab, Charpentier said: “This discovery is only eight years ago. And it has boomed extremely. Everyone is using now the CRISPR-cas9.”

Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede, a member of the Nobel Committee, noted that the method had “already benefited humankind greatly.”

The Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT have been in a long court fight over patents on CRISPR technology, and many other scientists did important work on it, but Doudna and Charpentier have been most consistently honored with prizes for turning it into an easily usable tool.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million kronor (more than \$1.1 million), courtesy of a bequest left more than a century ago by the prize’s creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The amount was increased recently to adjust for inflation.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine to Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton for discovering the liver-ravaging hepatitis C virus.

Tuesday’s prize for physics went to Roger Penrose of Britain, Reinhard Genzel of Germany, and Andrea Ghez of the United States for their breakthroughs in understanding the mysteries of cosmic black holes.

The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of literature, peace and economics.

NORTHWEST STOCKS

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes | | |
| Stock | Close | 8:30 |
| Intel | 51.43 | 52.84 |
| Kroger | 33.94 | 34.38 |
| Microsoft | 206.01 | 0.90 |
| Nike | 127.84 | 130.18 |

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| NW Natural | 46.49 | 46.27 |
| Skywest | 30.63 | 31.41 |
| Starbucks | 87.01 | 87.72 |
| Umpqua Hlds | 12.01 | 12.35 |
| Weyerhaeuser | 29.00 | 29.52 |
| Xerox | 19.70 | 19.96 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Levi Strauss | 14.74 | 15.78 |
| Dow Jones closed at 28,204.89 | | |
| NASDAQ closed at 11,299.58 | | |
| S&P 500 closed at 3,405.21 | | |
| Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones | | |

LOTTERY

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|-----------------------|
| MegaMillions |
| Oct. 6 |
| 15-16-18-39-59 |
| Megaball: 17 |
| Multiplier: x3 |
| Jackpot: \$60 million |

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|-----------------------|
| Powerball |
| Oct. 3 |
| 18-31-36-43-47 |
| Powerball: 20 |
| Multiplier: x2 |
| Jackpot: \$52 million |

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|------------------------|
| Megabucks |
| Oct. 5 |
| 8-12-18-23-35-43 |
| Jackpot: \$2.8 Million |

| |
|---------------------|
| Win For Life |
| Oct. 5 |
| 8-41-77 |

