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Trump returns to White House without mask

WASHINGTON (AP) ----President Donald Trump staged a dramatic return to the White House after leaving the military hospital where he was receiving an unprecedented level of care for COVID-19. He immediately ignited a new controversy by declaring that despite his illness the nation should not fear the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans — and then he entered the White House without a protective mask.

Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and several White House aides, including new cases revealed Monday.

Landing Monday night at the White House on Marine One,

Trump gingerly climbed the South Portico steps, removed his mask and declared, "I feel good." He gave a double thumbs-up to the departing helicopter from the portico terrace, where aides had arranged American flags for the sunset occasion. He entered the White House, where aides were visible milling about the Blue Room, without wearing a face covering.

The president left Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where his doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said earlier Monday that the president remains contagious and would not be fully "out of the woods" for another week but that Trump had met or exceeded standards for discharge from the hospital. Trump is expected to continue his recovery at the White House, where the reach of the outbreak

that has infected the highest levels of the U.S. government is still being uncovered.

Still, just a month before the election and anxious to project strength, Trump tweeted before leaving the hospital, "Will be back on the Campaign Trail soon!!!" And in case anyone missed his don't-worry message earlier, he rushed out a new video from the White House.

"Don't be afraid of it," Trump said of the virus. "You're going to beat it. We have the best medical equipment, we have the best medicines." His remarks were strong, but he was taking deeper breaths than usual as he delivered them.

On Tuesday, Trump went a step further, repeating his previous comparisons between COVID-19 and the seasonal flu.

"Many people every year,

sometimes over 100,000, and despite the Vaccine, die from the Flu," he tweeted. "Are we going to close down our Country? No, we have learned to live with it, just like we are learning to live with Covid, in most populations far less lethal !!!"

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

Trump's nonchalant message about not fearing the virus comes as his own administration has encouraged Americans to be very careful and take precautions to avoid contracting and spreading the disease as cases continue to spike across the country. For more than eight months, Trump's efforts to play down the threat of

the virus in hopes of propping up the economy ahead of the election have drawn bipartisan criticism.

"We have to be realistic in this: COVID is a complete threat to the American population," Dr. David Nace of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said of Trump's comment.

"Most of the people aren't so lucky as the president," with an in-house medical unit and access to experimental treatments, added Nace, an expert on infections in older adults.

"It's an unconscionable message," agreed Dr. Sadiya Khan of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "I would go so far as to say that it may precipitate or worsen spread."

Please see **Trump**, Page 4

President's Tweet angers survivors

SEATTLE (AP) — Dizzy with a soaring fever and unable to breathe, Scott Sedlacek had one thing going for him: He was among the first people to be treated for COVID-19 at Seattle's Swedish Medical Center, and the doctors and nurses were able to give him plenty of attention.

The 64-year-old recovered after being treated with a bronchial nebulizer in March, but the ensuing months have done little to dull the trauma of his illness. Hearing of President Donald Trump's advice by Tweet and video on Monday not to fear the disease — as well as the president's insistence on riding in a motorcade outside Walter Reed Medical Center and returning to the White House while still infectious — enraged him. "I'm so glad that he appears to be doing well, that he has doctors who can give him experimental drugs that aren't available to the masses," Sedlacek said. "For the rest of us, who are trying to protect ourselves, that behavior is an embarrassment." COVID-19 has infected about 7.5 million Americans, leaving more than 210,000 dead and millions more unemployed, including Sedlacek. The U.S. has less than 5% of the globe's population but more than 20% of the reported deaths. Yet the world's highest-profile coronavirus patient tweeted on Monday, as he was due to be released from the hospital following a three-day stay: "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life. We have developed, under the Trump Administration, some really great drugs & knowledge. I feel better than I did 20 years ago!" He reiterated the message in a video Monday night, saying "Be careful," but "don't let it dominate you." "You're going to beat it," he said. "We have the best medical equipment, we have the best medicines." The advice fit in with Trump's downplaying of the virus, his ridiculing of those who wear masks to protect themselves and others, and his insistence on holding rallies and White House events in contravention of federal guidelines. But emergency room doctors, public health experts, survivors of the disease and those who have lost loved ones were nevertheless aghast, saying his cavalier words were especially dangerous at a time when infections are on the rise in many places.



The Pacific Railcar Operators display their vintage speeder train cars along the tracks behind the Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum in Coos Bay in this June 2019 photo.

Speeders will ride rails to collect toys

Vintage cars plan toy drive as part of visit to South Coast this weekend

THE WORLD

COOS BAY - The North American Railcar Operators Association will be returning to the Coos Bay Rail Line for an excursion and toy drive from Oct. 9-11 this year. NARCOA is a nonprofit group of railroad enthusiasts with a mission to preserve safe and legal operation of historical railroad equipment, according to a press release from the International Port of Coos Bay

Railroad motorcars, also called speeders or putt putt cars, were utilized decades ago along railroads throughout the United States to assist crews in Maintenance of Way activities. Over the years, railroad motorcars have been largely replaced by more modern hyrail vehicles, which are standard roadway vehicles with retractable guide wheels that can operate on either road or rail.

Members of NARCOA operate privately owned speeders and participate in railroad-sanctioned excursions throughout the United States and Canada. This year's run will begin on the north end of the CBRL starting the morning of Oct. 9. It is anticipated that approximately 25 motorcars will participate in the October run. The group typically makes three trips to the CBRL each year, however due to challenges associated with COVID-19, this will be the first run of 2020.

NARCOA will be collecting new and unwrapped toys at three locations for distribution in partnership with the Coos Bay North Bend Rotary Club. Pick up locations will include Mapleton on Friday, Oct. 9, between 9 and 9:30 a.m.; Lakeside on Friday, Oct. 9, at approximately 3:30 p.m.; and on the Coos Bay Boardwalk on Saturday, Oct. 10, at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Members of the community who would like to participate by donating to children in need are welcome at the drop off locations while observing standard safety and social distancing procedures.

For additional information about NARCOA, upcoming excursions, or to locate motorcars for sale, please visit www. narcoa.org.

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National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10

Coos Bay Fire Department plans instructional videos

THE WORLD

COOS BAY - Coos Bay Fire Department is once again teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign entitled, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!"

The campaign works to educate everyone about simple, but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Almost half (44%) of reported home fires started in the kitchen. Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

'We know cooking fires can be prevented," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice-president of outreach and advocacy. "Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions such as electronics or TV are steps everyone can take to keep families safe in their homes."

"The most important step you should take before making a meal is to 'Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!"" said Coos Bay Fire Chief Mark Anderson. "A cooking fire can grow quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented."

Coos Bay Fire Department

wants to share safety tips to keep you from having a cooking fire:

• Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.

• If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

• You have to be alert when cooking. You won't be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs, or consumed alcohol that makes you drowsy.

• Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

• Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Due to the current restrictions relating to social distancing, the Coos Bay Fire Department will not be hosting an open house or going into the schools. Instead the Department is producing a series of short videos in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" These videos will be shared on the department's Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube social media platforms. Just search for Coos Bay Fire Department to locate and click "Follow or Subscribe" to receive notification of the latest videos.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking fire prevention, visit www.fpw.org.

<u><u>C</u>Edition</u>

Coquille Police Department will take back unwanted prescription drugs

Oct. 24 event is part of national DEA effort

THE WORLD

COQUILLE — On Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. the Coquille Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will provide the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your pills for disposal to Coquille Police Department at 851 N Central Blvd, Coquille Or 97423. (Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This October's event is DEA's 19th nationwide event since its inception 10 years ago.

Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 883,000 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. DEA, along with its law enforcement partners, has now collected nearly 6,350 tons of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications since the inception of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in 2010.

To keep everyone safe, collection sites will follow local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue, according to the DEA. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

In addition to DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are many other ways to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs every day, including the 11,000 authorized collectors that are available all year long, including the drop box located in the lobby of the Coquille Police Department.

For more information, call the Coquille Police Department at 541-396-2114.

The FDA also provides information on how to properly dispose of prescription drugs. More information is available here: https:// www.fda.gov/consumers/ consumer-updates/whereand-how-dispose-unusedmedicines.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the Oct. 24 Take Back Day event, go to www. DEATakeBack.com or call 541-396-2114.

Dozens of students test positive for COVID-19 at University of Oregon

EUGENE (AP) — The University of Oregon is reporting that dozens of students have tested positive for COVID-19.

The university's website showed on Monday that 57 coronavirus cases had been confirmed in the previous four days alone.

All of those cases involve students, but only one of the students lives in on-campus housing. The rest live off campus. The surge in cases comes at the beginning of the school year,

KEZI-TV reported. Cases have been climbing since about Sept. 22, when the university reported 15 cases. Every day since then, at least six additional cases have been reported. Officials said students who live on campus and test positive for the disease are "in isolation" while they recover.

University of Oregon has reported a total of more than 200 cases since June 1.

Also on Monday, the Register-Guard reported that four people were cited by city and university police on Saturday for hosting a party for between 100 and 150 mostly college-age people off campus.

Lane County Public Health officials have urged the community to stop gatherings, in particular, college parties, which have now led to multiple COVID-19 outbreaks.

Lane County is currently in Phase 2 of pandemic reopening, meaning all indoor gatherings are capped at 10 people.

Curry County will hold candidate

forums on Zoom

League of Women Voters features local races

THE WORLD

CURRY COUNTY — The League of Women Voters Curry County is holding four candidate forums on Zoom.

1) Contested state senate and state representative, District 1, combined with contested Curry County offices: commissioner, clerk/ recorder and treasurer;

2) Brookings City Council:

the following sites: lwvor.org>local leagues; VOTE411.org; and Charter Cable Channel 182: https:// currycountyvoices.com/ programs/.

"We encourage you to visit these sites and become informed about the candidates running in Curry County," said Charline (Charlie) Alexander, LWVCC voter service cochair in Port Orford. "The questions were written by the public via many forms of publicity and were given to the candidates anonymously."

The League of Women Voters of Curry County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and communities through programs of education, advocacy and voter service.

Officials warn of likely mosquito outbreak

THE WORLD

SOUTH COAST — Coos Health & Wellness wants to alert residents that a few days of rainfall, followed by the 70- to 90-degree temperatures last week guarantees an explosion of biting mosquitoes until the weather turns cold.

"Close to home, taking the time to empty any standing water in containers in your yard will prevent the maturing of more biting mosquitoes," said Dr. Eric Gleason, assistant director of Coos Health & Wellness. "It will help today to empty standing water from toys, flower pots, wading pools, buckets and rain gutters and change the water in the bird bath and your pet's water dish. You can politely ask your neighbors to get rid of their standing water too."

The mosquito that has already hatched can buzz around you for weeks or until the daytime temperature is consistently below 50 F. Minimize your nuisance: Remember mosquitoes tend to be most aggressive near dawn and dusk. Wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants, use 10-35% DEET containing insect repellent according to directions, and make sure your doors



and windows used for ventilation have good screens.

Texas officer charged with murder in shooting of unarmed Black man

WOLFE CITY, Texas (AP) — A white police officer has been charged with murder in the fatal shooting of a Black man following a reported disturbance at a convenience store in a small East Texas town over the weekend, authorities said.

Jonathan Price was walking away from Wolfe City Police Officer Shaun Lucas to a disturbance call on Saturday night following a report of a possible fight. He encountered Price, 31, who was reportedly involved in the disturbance, and Price "resisted in a non-threatening posture and began walking away," the Texas Rangers said.

Lucas used a stun gun before shooting Price, who was taken to a hospital and died, the statement said. Police didn't release details about the disturbance, but family and friends of Price said Monday that the one-time college football player was intervening in a domestic disturbance when he was shot. "When police arrived, I'm told, he raised his hands and attempted to explain what was going on," said civil rights attorney Lee Merritt in a Facebook posting. "Police fired Tasers at him and when his body convulsed from

the electrical current, they 'perceived a threat' and shot him to death."

After Lucas' arrest was announced, Merritt posted: "This didn't happen quickly. It should (have) happened the day he murdered JP. John should still be here."

Price's relatives and friends said Price, a Wolfe City employee, was a figure well-known about the closely knit community. The town has about 1,500 residents about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northeast of Dallas. Price played football in 2008 for Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Hardin-Simmons football coach Jesse Burleson tweeted that the university "lost one of our own in a terrible situation. Jonathan Price was an awesome young man during his time with Cowboy football."

Former Major League Baseball third baseman Will Middlebrooks, who grew up with Price, said on Facebook: "I'm sick. I'm heartbroken... and I'm furious." Middlebrooks started an online fundraiser for Price's family that surpassed its \$50,000 goal in less than 24 hours.

when Lucas opened fire Saturday night, killing Price, the Texas Rangers said.

Lucas, 22, was booked Monday into the Hunt County Jail on Monday night, the Texas Rangers said in a statement released by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Jail records show bail was set at \$1 million.

It wasn't immediately known if Lucas had a lawyer who could comment on his behalf.

According to the statement, Lucas responded 3) Port Orford City Council; and

4) Gold Beach City Council

The debates will be available for viewing shortly after Oct. 7 on

Oregon's COVID-19 death toll unchanged Monday

THE WORLD

PORTLAND — The state's death toll from COVID-19 is unchanged from Sunday and remains at 572, the Oregon Health Authority reported Monday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 288 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 as of 12:01 on Monday, bringing the state total to 35,049. The new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported today are in the following counties: Benton (2), Clackamas (25), Columbia (5), Coos (4), Deschutes (11), Douglas (2), Jackson (14), Jefferson (3), Josephine (6), Klamath (3), Lane (33), Linn (7), Malheur (8), Marion (52), Morrow (1), Multnomah (61), Polk (3), Umatilla (7), Wasco (1), Washington (35), and Yamhill (5).



<u>CEdition</u>



New ramps have been installed at the Empire Boat Ramp facility.

Contributed Photo

New boat ramps installed in Empire

THE WORLD

COOS BAY — The new floats were installed last week at the City of Coos Bay's Empire Boat Ramp.

This location is a heavily used boat ramp facility accessed by both local residents and visitors from across the state, according to the City of Coos Bay. Five of the eight float docks on the south side of Empire Boat Ramp were showing signs of failure, so city staff removed them and closed the south side of the ramp until they could be replaced this year. The structural failure was caused by age and waves.

On May 19, the Urban Renewal Agency authorized staff to proceed with the purchase of replacement floats per the city's Emergency Procurement Rules. The city obtained three qualified bids from manufacturers recommended through Oregon State Marine Board. The Urban Renewal Agency approved a contract with the low bidder, KG Manufacturing, for replacing the floats for a cost of \$122,344.12.

"We had hoped to have the new floats installed early in salmon season," said a City of Coos Bay spokesperson. "However, some of the contractor's suppliers have been impacted by COVID-19, thus slowing down progress."

The timing of the issue with the floats was such that OSMB grants were not available. OSMB did assist with the plans for the float design. The city will be applying for OSMB grants for replacement of the remaining floats at the Empire Boat Ramp as well as replacement of the floats at the Eastside Boat Ramp.

Fed chief: Lack of further stimulus imperils recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Strong financial support from the government and the Federal Reserve have spurred a solid recovery from the pandemic recession, but the rebound may falter without further aid, Fed Chair Jerome Powell warned Tuesday.

Powell said that government support — including expanded unemployment insurance payments, direct payments to most U.S. households and financial support for small businesses — has so far prevented a recessionary "downward spiral" in which job losses would reduce spending, forcing businesses to cut even more jobs.

But the U.S. economy still faces threats, and without further support those downward trends could still emerge, the chairman said.

"The expansion is still far from complete," Powell said in a speech to the National Association for Business Economics, a group of corporate and academic economists. "Too little support would lead to a weak recovery, creating unnecessary hardship for households and businesses. Over time, household insolvencies and business bankruptcies would rise, harming the productive capacity of the economy, and holding back wage growth."

Powell noted that the economic recovery has slowed in recent months compared with its rapid improvement in May and June. Incomes fell in August. And job growth weakened in September, slowing to just 661,000, less than half the gains of 1.5 million in August and 1.8 million in September.

"A prolonged slowing in the pace of improvement over time could trigger typical recessionary dynamics, as weakness feeds on weakness," he said.

In recent months, in speeches and in testimony to Congress Powell has repeatedly urged lawmakers to enact an additional economic aid package.

Scientists awarded physics Nobel Prize for black hole research

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Three scientists won this year's Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for advancing our understanding of black holes, the all-consuming monsters that lurk in the darkest parts of the universe and that still confound astronomers.

Briton Roger Penrose, German Reinhard Genzel and American Andrea Ghez explained to the world these dead ends of the cosmos, where light and even time doesn't escape. These staples of both science fact and fiction are still not completely understood, but they are deeply connected, somehow, to the creation of galaxies, where the stars and life exist. Penrose, of the University of Oxford, received half of this year's prize "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of" Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, the Nobel Committee said. Genzel, who is at both the Max Planck Institute in Germany and the University of California at Berkeley, and Ghez, of UCLA, received the second half of the prize "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy." That object was also a black hole, albeit a giant one.

center of every galaxy, and smaller ones are dotted around the universe. Nothing, not even light, can escape their incredible gravity. Time comes to a standstill as it gets closer.

Just their existence is mind-bending, taking what people experience every day on Earth — light and time — and warping them in such a way that seems unreal.

"Black holes, because they are so hard to understand, is what makes them so appealing," Ghez told The Associated Press Tuesday morning. "I really think of science as a big, giant puzzle." Ghez, 55, went to college as a math major because the concept of infinity fascinated her. Because time slows and even stops in these black holes, Ghez said she is still studying infinity in a way.

and that, together with a young Stephen Hawking, he helped firm up evidence for the Big Bang and black holes.

"Penrose and Hawking are the two individuals who have done more than anyone else since Einstein to deepen our knowledge of gravity," Rees said. "Sadly, this award was too much delayed to allow Hawking to share the credit."

Hawking died in 2018, and Nobel prizes are only awarded to the living.

It wasn't until the 1990s that Genzel, 68, and Ghez, each leading a group of astronomers, trained their sights on the dust-covered center of our Milky Way galaxy, a region called Sagittarius A(asterisk), where something strange was going on. They both found that there was "an extremely heavy, invisible object that pulls on the jumble of stars, causing them to rush around at dizzying speeds," according to the committee. It was a black hole. Not just an ordinary black hole, but a supermassive one, 4 million times the mass of our sun. The first image Ghez got was in 1995, using the Keck Telescope, which had just gone online. A year later, another image seemed to indicate that the stars near the center of the Milky Way were circling something. A third image led Ghez and Genzel to think they were really on to something.

that all galaxies have supermassive black holes.

In 2019, scientists got the first optical image of a black hole, and Ghez, who was not involved, praised the discovery.

"Today we accept these objects are critical to the building blocks of the universe," Ghez told an audience at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences by phone shortly after the announcement.

Ghez, who spoke from her home in Los Angeles, was woken by the call from the Nobel Committee at 2 a.m.

"For the first few minutes, I thought I was Ghez is the fourth woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize for physics, after Marie Curie in 1903, Maria Goeppert-Mayer in 1963, and Donna Strickland in 2018.

"I hope I can inspire other young women into the field. It's a field that has so many pleasures. And if you're passionate about the science, there's so much that can be done," Ghez said.

It is common for several scientists who worked in related fields to share the prize. Last year's prize went to Canadian-born cosmologist James Peebles for theoretical work about the early moments after the Big Bang, and Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz for discovering a planet outside our solar system.

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 124 years 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.

The prize celebrates what the Nobel Committee called "one of the most exotic objects in the universe" and ones that "still pose many questions that beg for answers and motivate future research."

Black holes are at the

"You get this mixing of space and time," Ghez said, adding that's what makes black holes so hard to understand.

Penrose, 89, proved with mathematics that the formation of black holes was possible, based heavily on Einstein's general theory of relativity.

"Einstein did not himself believe that black holes really exist, these super-heavyweight monsters that capture everything that enters them," the Nobel Committee said. "Nothing can escape, not even light."

Martin Rees, the British astronomer royal, noted that Penrose triggered a "renaissance" in the study of relativity in the 1960s,

Now scientists know

Epic California wildfires continue to grow

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The staggering scale of California's wildfires reached another milestone Monday: A single fire surpassed 1 million acres.

The new mark for the August Complex in the Coast Range between San Francisco and the Oregon border came a day after the total area of land burned by California wildfires this year passed 4 million acres, more than double the previous record.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the amount of land scorched by the August Complex is larger than all of the recorded fires in California between 1932 and 1999.

"If that's not proof point, testament, to climate change, then I don't know what is," Newsom said.

The August Complex began as dozens of fires ignited by lightning in the Mendocino National Forest in mid-August and became California's largest fire on record in September. As of Monday, it covered nearly 1,566 square miles (4,055 square kilometers).

Since the beginning of the year, more than 8,200 California wildfires have scorched "well over 4 million acres" or 6,250 square miles, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday in a statement. There have been 31 deaths and nearly 8,700 buildings have been destroyed, the governor said.

Numerous studies have

linked bigger wildfires in America to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists say climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

Mike Flannigan, who directs the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science at Canada's University of Alberta, says the escalation of fires in California and the U.S. West is "largely, not solely, due to human-caused climate change."

The August Complex has destroyed 242 structures and damaged a half dozen. One firefighter has died and one has been injured. Containment was estimated at 54% on Monday. dreaming," Ghez said in the AP interview.

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-fitsall 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.)

<u>C</u>Edition

White House staff, Secret Service eye virus with fear, anger following president's actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The West Wing is a ghost town. Staff members are scared of exposure. And the White House is now a treatment ward for not one but two — COVID patients, including a president who has long taken the threat of the virus lightly.

President Donald Trump's decision to return home from a military hospital despite his continued illness is putting new focus on the people around him who could be further exposed if he doesn't abide by strict isolation protocols.

Throughout the pandemic, White House custodians, ushers, kitchen staff and members of the U.S. Secret Service have continued to show up for work in what is now a coronavirus hot spot, with more than a dozen known cases this week alone.

Trump, still contagious, has made clear that he has little intention of abiding by best containment practices.

As he arrived back at the White House on Monday evening, the president defiantly removed his face mask and stopped to pose on a balcony within feet of a White House photographer. He was seen inside moments later, surrounded by numerous people as he taped a video message urging Americans not to fear a virus that has killed more than 210,000 in the U.S. and 1 million worldwide.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the White House was "taking every precaution necessary" to protect not just the first family but "every staff member working on the complex" consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and best practices. He added that physical access to the president would be significantly limited and appropriate protective gear worn by those near him.

Nonetheless, the mood within the White House remains somber, with staff fearful they may have been exposed to the virus. As they confront a new reality — a worksite that once seemed like a bubble of safety is anything but — they also have been engaged in finger-pointing over conflicting reports released about the president's health as well as a lack of information provided internally.

Many have learned about positive tests from media reports and several were exposed, without their knowledge, to people the White House already knew could be contagious.

Indeed, it took until late Sunday night, nearly three full days after Trump's diagnosis, for the White House to send a staff-wide note in response. Even then, it did not acknowledge the outbreak.

"As a reminder," read the letter from the White House Management Office, "if you are experiencing any symptoms ... please stay home and do not come to work." Staff who develop symptoms were advised to "go home immediately" and contact their doctors rather than the White House Medical Unit.

Even when Trump was at the hospital, his staff was not immune to risk.

Trump had aides there recording videos and taking photographs of him. On Sunday evening, he took a surprise drive around the hospital to wave to supporters from the window of an SUV. The Secret Service agents in the car with him were dressed in personal protective equipment.

"Appropriate precautions were taken in the execution of this movement to protect the president and all those supporting it, including PPE," Deere said.

Trump campaign spokesman Hogan Gidley dismissed media concern about the agents' safety as "absolutely stupid and foolish."

"How do they think he's going to leave? Is someone gonna toss him the keys to a Buick and let him drive home by himself? They're always around him because that's their job," Gidley said on Fox News.

But agents told a very different story.

Several who spoke with The Associated Press expressed concern over the cavalier attitude the White House has taken when it comes to masks and distancing. Colleagues, they said, are angry, but feel there's little they can do.

One, speaking after White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany tested positive on Monday, said it felt like he and some of his colleagues had been spared only by a measure of good luck.

Others noted the difference between facing outside threats they have trained for — a gun, a bomb or a biohazard — and being put at additional risk because of behavior they characterized as reckless at times. The agents spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid jeopardizing their jobs.

The Secret Service has refused to disclose how many of its employees have tested positive or have had to quarantine, citing privacy and security. But in the midst of the election, thousands of agents are on duty and anyone who tests positive can easily be subbed out, officials have said.

Secret Service spokeswoman Julia McMurray said the agency takes "every precaution to keep our protectees, employees and families, and the general public, safe and healthy."

Trump has joined first lady Melania Trump, who also tested positive, in the residential area of the White House. It is typically served by a staff of roughly 100 people, including housekeepers, cooks, florists, groundskeepers and five or six butlers — who interact most closely with the president, said Kate Andersen Brower, who wrote the "The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House."

During the pandemic, that staff has been reduced to a skeleton crew, with mask-wearing much more prevalent than in the West Wing, where few have worn them regularly.

Brower said she recently spoke with three former employees who expressed concern about the health of current workers, but were too afraid to speak publicly.

"The butlers always feel protective of the first family, but there's just a concern about whether or not the staff would get sick," Brower said. Most are older, she said, "because they work from one generation to the next. They are people who have been on the job for 20 to 30 years. They want to work to get their full pensions."

Many of the White House residence staffers are Black or Latino, among the demographic groups showing higher rates of infection and death in the pandemic. Overall deaths among minorities have risen far higher than among white people, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show. Among the risk factors, some communities of color are likely to have lower incomes, less often have insurance to help fight sickness, and have jobs that are deemed essential and expose them to higher risk of infection.

For months now, cleaning staff have also privately voiced concerns about their safety, including lack of access to testing and inadequate protective gear.

Stephanie Grisham, the first lady's spokeswoman, said that "all precautions are being taken to ensure the health and safety of the residence staff," but she declined to be specific.

While the White House has refused to implement new safety procedures — such as making masks mandatory — the building was noticeably emptier Monday, with more staffers now staying home on days when they are not needed on site.

On Monday morning, there was just a single staff member in the ground floor press office, where two medical staff members administered COVID-19 tests, surrounded by empty desks.

It's not the first time a White House has had to contend with a virus. During the flu pandemic of 1918, President Woodrow Wilson was infected as were members of his family and White House staff, including his secretary and several Secret Service members, according to the White House Historical Association.

So were two sheep who spent their days grazing on the South Lawn. They were hospitalized but recovered.

CDC says virus can spread in poorly ventilated enclosed spaces

NEW YORK (AP) — The top U.S. public health agency said Monday that the coronavirus can spread more than 6 feet through the air, especially in poorly ventilated and enclosed spaces. But agency officials maintained that such spread is uncommon and current social distancing said the virus can spread more easily than the CDC seems to be indicating, and suggested that the public should wear masks even in prolonged outdoor gatherings when they are more than 6 feet apart.

The virus "is traveling through the air and there is no bright line. You're not For months, the CDC has said that the virus spreads mainly through small airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Most CDC guidance about social distancing is built around that idea, saying that 6 feet is a safe buffer between people who are not wearsometimes spread on even smaller particles called aerosols that spread over a wider area.

In the update posted on its website, the agency again acknowledged recent research showing people with COVID-19 infected others who were more than 6 feet away or shortly after an infected person left an area. CDC officials called those "limited, uncommon circumstances." In those cases, spread occurred in poorly ventilated and enclosed spaces where people were doing activities that caused heavier breathing, like singing or exercise, CDC officials said.

People can protect themselves by staying at least 6 feet away from others, wearing a mask, washing their hands, cleaning touched surfaces and staying home when sick Last month, the CDC ignited controversy among experts when it quietly posted an update that seemed to suggest the agency's position had changed, and then within days took it down again.

The short-lived post said the virus can remain suspended in the air and drift more than 6 feet, and officials emphasized the importance of indoor ventilation. It also added singing and breathing to the ways the virus can go airborne.

guidelines still make sense.

However, several experts faulted the updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance. They safe beyond 6 feet. You can't take your mask off at 6 feet," said Dr. Donald Milton of the University of Maryland School of Public Health. ing masks.

In interviews, CDC officials have also acknowledged growing evidence that the virus can

Trump

From Page 1

Likewise, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, who spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with Trump last week, said during an NBC town hall Monday night that he was glad Trump seemed to be recovering well, "but there's a lot to be concerned about --210,000 people have died. I hope no one walks away with the message that it's not a problem." Biden tested negative for the virus on Sunday.

There was pushback from a prominent Trump political supporter as well.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas told the Houston Chronicle editorial board that Trump had "let his guard down" in his effort to show that the country was moving beyond the virus and had created "confusion" about how to stay safe.

Conley said that because

of Trump's unusual level of treatment so early after discovery of his illness he was in "uncharted territory." But the doctor also was upbeat at an afternoon briefing and said the president could resume his normal schedule once "there is no evidence of live virus still present."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 can be contagious for as many as — and should isolate for at least — 10 days.

Trump's arrival back at the White House raised new questions about how the administration was going to protect other officials from a disease that remains rampant in the president's body. Press secretary Kayleigh McEnany announced she had tested positive for the virus Monday morning and was entering quarantine.

There were also lingering questions about potential long-term effects to the president — and even when he first came down with the virus.

Conley repeatedly declined to share results of medical scans of Trump's lungs, saying he was not at liberty to discuss the information because Trump did not waive doctor-patient confidentiality on the subject. COVID-19 has been known to cause significant damage to the lungs of some patients. Conley also declined to share the date of Trump's most recent negative test for the virus — a critical point for contact tracing and understanding where Trump was in the course of the disease.

Only a day earlier, Trump suggested he had finally grasped the true nature of the virus, saying in a video, "I get it." But on Sunday afternoon, he ventured out of the hospital while contagious to salute cheering supporters by motorcade — an outing that disregarded precautions meant to contain the virus. At the hospital, doctors revealed that his blood oxygen level had dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recommended for the very sick.

Trump's experience with the disease has been dramatically different from most Americans, who do not have access to the same kind of monitoring and care. While most must cope with their symptoms — and fear of whether they'll take a turn for the worse — at home and alone, Trump has been staying in the presidential suite of one of the nation's best hospitals and has been given experimental drugs not readily available to the public. He returns to the White House, where there is a team of doctors on call with 24-hour monitoring.

Trump was leaving the hospital after receiving a fourth dose of the antiviral drug remdesivir Monday evening, Conley said. He will receive the fifth and final dose Tuesday at the White House. Vice President Mike

Pence returned to the campaign trail moments after Trump announced he would soon leave the hospital. The vice president boarded Air Force Two to fly to Salt Lake City, where he is to face off against Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Kamala Harris on Wednesday.

Trump, in his new video, defended his decision to repeatedly flout his own administration's guidelines to slow the spread of the virus, including by holding rallies with thousands of mostly maskless supporters.

Apparently referring to any potential danger to himself rather than others, he said: "I stood out front. I led. Nobody that's a leader would not do what I did." He added: "And I know there's a risk, there's a danger. But that's OK. And now I'm better. And maybe I'm immune, I don't know." Even before Trump's motorcade outing Sunday, some Secret Service agents had expressed concern about the lackadaisical attitude toward masks and social distancing inside the White House, but there isn't much they can do, according to agents and officials who spoke to The Associated Press.

Trump's aggressive course of treatment included the steroid dexamethasone and the single dose he was given Friday of an experimental drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. that supplies antibodies to help the immune system fight the virus. Trump on Friday also began a fiveday course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients. The drugs work in different ways — the antibodies help the immune system rid the body of virus, and remdesivir curbs the virus's ability to multiply.

Response

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Marc Papaj, a Seneca Nation member who lives in Orchard Park, New York, lost his mother, grandmother and aunt to COVID-19. He was finding it tough to follow the president's advice not to let the virus "dominate your life."

"The loss of my dearest family members will forever dominate my life in every way for all of my days," Papaj said, adding this about Trump: "He does not care about any of us — he's feeling good."

Dr. Tien Vo, who has administered more than 40,000 coronavirus tests at his clinics in California's Imperial County, had this to say: "Oh, my Lord. That's a very bad recommendation from the president."

The county is a farming region along the Mexican border that, at one point, had California's highest infection rate. Its 180,000 residents are largely Latino and low-income, groups that have suffered disproportionately from the virus. Cases overwhelmed its two hospitals in May.

"The president has access to the best medical care in the world, along with a helicopter to transport him to the hospital as needed," Dr. Janet Baseman, an epidemiologist at the University of Washington's School of Public Health, wrote in an email. "The rest of us who don't have such ready access to care should continue to worry about covid, which has killed a million people around the world in just a handful of months."

Some of Trump's supporters said they wouldn't be swayed by the White House outbreak: Wearing a mask is a choice, and to mandate its use limits freedom, said Melissa Blundo, chairwoman of the "No Mask Nevada" PAC.

"I'm not saying the coronavirus isn't real. I'm not saying that it isn't a pandemic," she said. "I believe tuberculosis could be called a pandemic when it kills a person every 21 seconds, but we haven't shut down the entire world. I just find it interesting that we are taking this particular pandemic and shutting down economies."

Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control show 8,920 cases of tuberculosis in 2019. In 2017, the most recent year it reported deaths, 515 died from the bacterial lung infection. Candy Boyd, the owner of Boyd Funeral Home in Los Angeles, which serves many Black families, said Trump's comments were infuriating and an "example of him not living in reality." The funeral home receives fewer virus victims now than it did in the spring, when it was several a day, but people continue to die, she said.

"We have people dying and this is a joke to him," Boyd said. "I don't take that lightly. This is sad. This is absurd."

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Yankees pound four homers to beat Rays

MOSTLY SUNNY 69 • 54 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Giancarlo Stanton hit a grand slam in the ninth inning for New York's fourth home run of the game, and the Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 9-3 Monday night in the opener of their AL Division Series at Petco Park.

Stanton homered to straightaway center field on a 2-2 pitch from John Curtiss with one out. The slugger took several steps with his bat still in his hands as he watched the ball sail through the warm San Diego night before beginning his trot.

Kyle Higashioka and Aaron Judge hit the tying and go-ahead home runs off Blake Snell in the fifth inning. Clint Frazier hit an impressive shot into the second deck in left in the third.

The Bronx Bombers became the first team in American League history to hit a grand slam in back-to-back playoff games. Gio Urshela did it in Game 2 of the first-round sweep of Cleveland. Two NL teams have done it, the 1977 Dodgers and 2011 Diamondbacks.

The Yankees set a franchise

record by hitting at least three home runs in three straight postseason games. They are the second team to do in baseball history after the Rays did it in four straight in 2008.

The ball was flying for the Rays as well off Yankees ace Gerrit Cole in downtown San Diego. Randy Arozarena homered with two outs in the first and Ji-Man Choi muscled an opposite-field, two-run shot with no outs in the fourth into the Rays bullpen beyond the fence in left-center to give Tampa Bay a 3-2 lead.

ASTROS 10, ATHLETICS 5: Carlos Correa homered twice and drove in four, Jose Altuve hit a go-ahead, two-run single during Houston's four-run sixth inning and the Astros rallied to beat Oakland in the opener of their AL Division Series at Dodger Stadium.

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George Springer, MVP of the 2017 World Series, had four hits for Houston.

The Astros rallied with two outs in the sixth against Oakland's vaunted bullpen to take control of Major League Base-

ball's first neutral-site postseason game resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Houston pounded out 16 hits in all as the A's ran through eight pitchers.

Altuve's line-drive single to left scored Martin Maldonado and Springer to put the Astros in front, 6-5. Altuve moved up on the throw home and scored on Michael Brantley's single to right.

Blake Taylor got the victory with one inning of relief. J.B. Wendelken took the loss, allowing four runs and three hits in two-thirds of an inning.

Chiefs top Patriots in delayed contest

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -It's hard enough to slow down Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs under the best of circumstances.

Try doing it with your star quarterback shelved by COVID-19, a 40-year-old journeyman taking his place, your top running back headed to injured reserve and a flight that didn't land in Kansas City until shortly before kickoff.

Yet the New England Patriots still managed to give the Chiefs fits for most of the way Monday night, hanging within a field goal of the Super Bowl champs until late in the third quarter. It wasn't until Tyrann Mathieu took an interception back for a touchdown in the fourth that Kansas City clinched its 26-10 victory at Arrowhead Stadium.

"You've seen it this season.

North Bend's Emma Spalding is safe at the plate as the ball gets away from Marshfield catcher EmmaLee Schaeffer on Monday at North Bend.

John Gunther Photos, The World



Softball teams make progress in fall ball

JOHN GUNTHER The World

NORTH BEND — The goal of the sports seasons for North Bend and Marshfield is to give the student-athletes an opportunity to play.

For most of the rest of October, that includes volleyball, as well as three sports that had their seasons canceled last spring baseball, softball and track and field.

Marshfield and North Bend have set an ambitious schedule that includes playing baseball, softball and volleyball a couple of times a week and holding track meets every Friday.

The events mostly resemble regular high school competitions, albeit without fans in the stadiums.

True, volleyball is being played on the football fields and without officials and only about half the events are being held at the track meets.

Baseball and softball are being played with umpires.

But one of the regular high school rules was ignored when Marshfield and North Bend faced off in softball at North Bend on Monday — the 10-run mercy rule.

The game would have ended halfway through the fourth inning, with North Bend already ahead by more than 10 runs, but since the goal is to play as much as possible this fall, the game went on until there wasn't enough daylight to ensure another three outs could be recorded.

It's important because the two programs lost their spring seasons and have relatively young and/or inexperienced varsity squads.

"Where spring really hit us hard is we have some girls out here who would have had a full year of (junior varsity)," said Kevin Guthrie, who is filling in as Marshfield coach this fall while head coach Brooke Blondell is



Marshfield coach Kevin Guthrie talks to Dahlia Soto-Kanui at third base during Wednesday's contest.

home with her new baby.

"We can look at it like, 'Oh gosh, we didn't have a spring,' Guthrie said. "But we've never had an opportunity like this." North Bend coach John Olson agreed.

"Our sophomores are really freshmen," he said, referring to the experience level of those players. "To get a couple games in is going to pay dividends for Marshfield and us in the spring."

Olson said his players are showing great progress.

"I can see the wheels turning on base-running (concepts)," he said. "They're picking it up."

In Monday's game, both teams did some things well, though some of the timing was off at the plate and the pitchers sometimes

struggled to find the strike zone.

But there were defensive gems as well - Marshfield's Cedar Ward snagging a line drive and the Pirates getting a pair of double plays on balls caught at first base.

North Bend freshman Emma Spalding had half a gem, diving to her left to snag a hard grounder, but not being able to make the play at first base.

She was one of a few freshmen who played on a day when both coaches cleared their benches to get everybody onto the field for at least a couple of innings.

That's exactly what the coaches are planning over the next few weeks, with seven more varsity (and junior varsity) games planned for the two schools.

"It's awesome," Olson said.

Arizona Wildcats coach tests positive for virus

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona football coach Kevin Sumlin has tested positive for COVID-19 less than a week before the team begins its preseason practices.

The school said in a statement that the 56-year-old Sumlin received back-to-back positive tests and has entered self-isola-

tion. The school said Sumlin has not experienced any symptoms and that the positive test result was not related to any team activities.

"My family and I have been aggressive in our efforts to remain safe and healthy throughout the past seven months," Sumlin said in a statement. "My positive

test result, while a shock, is a stark reminder of how we must all remain vigilant in our focus on hand washing, physical distancing and face coverings.

"I am feeling well and will be engaged in our ramp-up activities on a virtual basis until I complete the isolation protocol. I look forward to being back on field in time to begin preparing for the season."

Sumlin is among a handful of FBS coaches who have contracted COVID-19 over the past few months, including Florida State's Mike Norvell.

Arizona begins its six-game schedule on Nov. 7 at Utah. The school still plans to start preseason practice Friday.

You've seen it last season. Even if you hold us down, we can go out there and make plays when they count," said Mahomes, who threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns. "When your number is called you have to make plays, and I thought enough guys made plays that we were able to get out of there with a win."

Tyreek Hill and Mecole Hardman had the TD grabs for the Chiefs, who have now won 13 straight games.

"We made plays when we had to make plays," coach Andy Reid said, "and we can learn from this. We have to do better in a lot of areas, but it's tough to win in this league and it's tough to beat the Patriots in any situation."

Perhaps a bit easier in this one.

The marquee matchup was supposed to be Sunday, but it was put on pause when New England confirmed that a player — later revealed to be Cam Newton — tested positive for COVID-19. Later on Saturday, it came out that Chiefs practice squad QB Jordan Ta'amu also had tested positive, forcing the NFL to postpone the game.

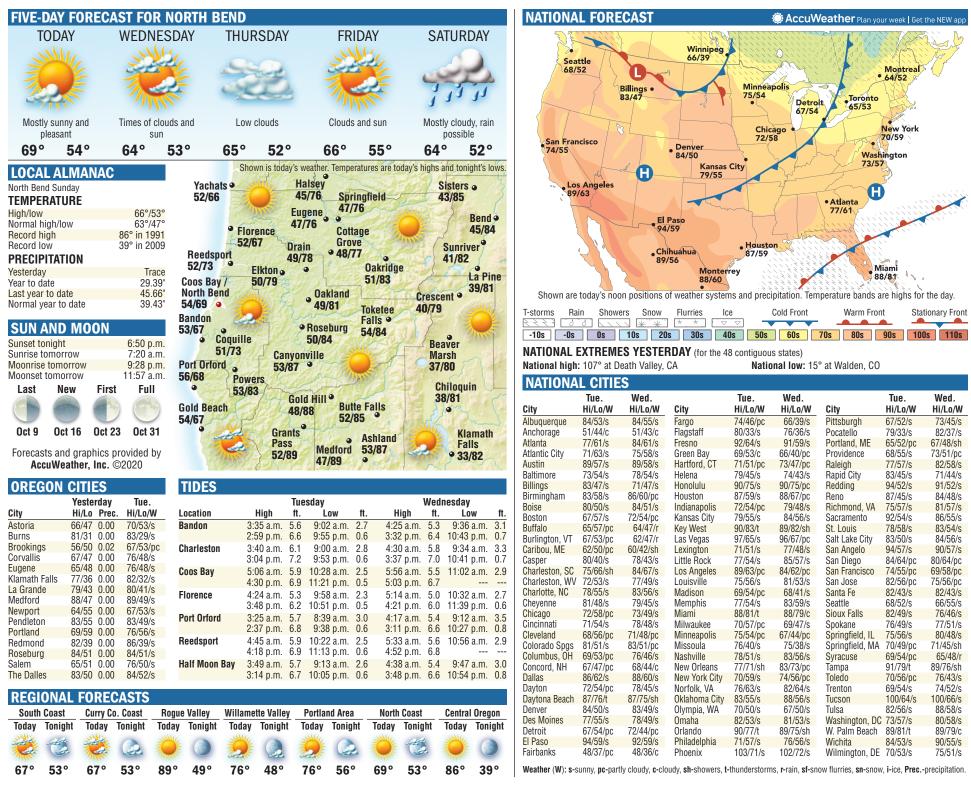
More tests, including one taken at 6 a.m. ET on Monday, returned no additional positives from either team.

With their quarterback sidelined, and running back Sony Michel hitting the IR with a quad injury, the Patriots (2-2) were forced to lean on journeyman Brian Hoyer and a cast of running backs that never got into much of a rhythm.

Hoyer, who has now lost 11 straight starts for three different teams, was 15 of 24 for 130 yards and an interception before getting benched in the second half. Jarrett Stidham led the Patriots to a touchdown to close to 13-10, but he also threw two interceptions, including the pick-6 to Mathieu that propelled the Chiefs to their fourth straight 4-0 start.

"We had some opportunities tonight (and) weren't able to take advantage of them. You can't give a team like that those kind

EEdition



Rodgers, Tonyan lead Packers over Falcons

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers needed someone to step forward when injuries left their top two wide receivers unavailable.

That made it the perfect showcase for tight end Robert Tonyan to continue his breakthrough season.

Tonyan caught three of Aaron Rodgers' four touchdown passes, Za'Darius Smith recorded three sacks and the Packers remained unbeaten with a 30-16 victory over the winless Atlanta Falcons on Monday night. "I just had to continue to do what I've been doing, just keep playing well and stick to the game plan," Tonyan said. "Like I've said before, when plays come to me, I've got to make them. Aaron had a nice little look in his eye tonight, so I just was trying to roll with that." The Packers (4-0) have opened a season by scoring at least 30 points in four straight games for

the first time in franchise history.

Green Bay star receiver Davante Adams sat out a second straight game with a hamstring injury and Allen Lazard is on injured reserve with a core problem. A knee injury sidelined veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis.

Yet that didn't slow down Rodgers, who capitalized on Atlanta's depleted secondary.

"I like where we're at," Rodgers said. "I really do. I like the The 2017 undrafted free agent from Indiana State finished the night with six catches for 98 yards along with his three touchdowns to set career highs in all three categories. Tonyan has scored in three straight games and now has five touchdown catches to match Tampa Bay's Mike Evans for the NFL lead.

Rodgers went 27 of 33 for 327 yards. He has thrown 13 touchdown passes without an intercep5-11. Atlanta coach Dan Quinn remains confident the Falcons can turn around this season.

"In my heart, in my head and everything I believe in, I know that we can," Quinn said. "I know that the second quarter of our season will look a hell of a lot different from our first. That's in fact what I told the team. Nothing's been decided yet."

After blowing two-touchdown leads in the fourth quarter each of the last two weeks, the Falcons never were ahead in this one. Green Bay took the lead for good when Rodgers threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Aaron Jones on the game's opening series. Atlanta already was playing without safeties Ricardo Allen (elbow) and Keanu Neal (hamstring) as well as cornerback A.J. Terrell (COVID-19 reserve). That beleaguered secondary took more hits when Damontae Kazee got carted off the field and Jaylinn Hawkins left with a concussion in the second quarter.

Green Bay capitalized by scoring touchdowns on three of its four first-half possessions to build a 20-3 halftime lead. The Packers' other first-half series ended less than a yard away from the end zone when Deion Jones stuffed Jamaal Williams on fourth-and-goal.

REACHING MILE-STONES: Julio Jones had four

diversity in our approach. Again (coach) Matt (LaFleur) was really good kind of mixing it up with the calls. Obviously we had to do some different things without Davante, without Allen and without Marcedes, but I thought we had a nice plan and we executed really well."

Tonyan had touchdown receptions of 19 and 8 yards to cap the Packers' final two first-half possessions. He added a 21-yard touchdown reception midway through the third quarter. tion this season.

"He's one of those guys who's self-motivated," LaFleur said. "It doesn't take anything other than he wants to be the best. He usually is the best every Sunday when we're out there. We're fortunate to have him as our leader. He's the one driving the ship out there."

Todd Gurley's two touchdown runs couldn't stop the Falcons from their first 0-4 start since 1999, when they followed a Super Bowl season by going catches for 32 yards and broke the Falcons' record for career receptions despite sitting out the second half with a hamstring injury. Jones entered the night tied with Roddy White, who caught 808 passes for the Falcons from 2005-13.

Rodgers became the 11th player in NFL history to have at least 4,000 completions. One of the other players to reach that mark is Ryan, who went 28 of 39 for 285 yards with no touchdown passes or interceptions Monday.

Texans fire coach/GM O'Brien

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans had faith that coach Bill O'Brien was the man to lead them to their first championship.

So much faith in fact that they made the unusual move of making him the team's general manager this off-season, too.

But O'Brien didn't perform well in either role, leading to his firing on Monday.

He was let go a day after Sunday's 31-23 loss to the Vikings dropped the Texans to 0-4 for the first time since 2008.

"In this business, it's a bottom-line business and we weren't able to get it to where we needed to get it," O'Brien said.

After becoming the general manager, O'Brien received almost universal criticism when he shipped superstar receiver DeAndre Hopkins to Arizona for running back David Johnson and draft picks.

Asked to reflect on some

of his personnel decisions, O'Brien said he had no regrets.

"Every decision we made was always in the best interest of the team," he said. "We had long conversations. We put a lot of research into them. There were things that happened within the walls of an organization that the outside public will really never know. And that's just the way it is."

The pressure on O'Brien only intensified as the Texans limped out to the terrible start with Johnson struggling as their running game was the worst in the NFL and with the defense allowing the most yards in the league.

O'Brien was in his seventh season in Houston where he compiled a 52-48 record. He won the AFC South four times in his tenure, including the past two years.

He came to Houston after spending 2012-13 as the coach at Penn State. The Texans job was his first NFL head coaching job, but he spent 2007-2011 working for coach Bill Belichick in New England, rising to the role of offensive coordinator in his last season.

Team owner Cal McNair announced the decision Monday and thanked O'Brien for his work with the team.

"Bill's leadership moved our organization forward as he guided us to four AFC South division championships, 52 wins and multiple playoff appearances during his tenure," McNair said in a statement. "Bill proved himself as a coach and leader in this league. I spoke with him earlier today and told him we are moving in a different direction."

O'Brien repeatedly thanked the McNair family for the chance to coach the Texans and apologized for falling below their expectations.

Chiefs

From Page 5

of opportunities," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "Turned the ball over four times. Had too many penalties."

Yet much of the way, Belichick's run-heavy, drain-the-clock game plan worked.

The Chiefs marched downfield for a field goal on their first drive, added another later in the half, but otherwise had a hard time getting into gear. Sammy Watkins wasted a scoring chance by fumbling in the red zone, Mahomes was under constant duress and the rest of his wide receivers were blanketed by the New England secondary.

In fact, the Patriots could have been leading had Hoyer not made two monumental mistakes.

The first came in the closing seconds of the first half, when the Patriots had used their

timeouts to drive into field-goal range. Hoyer was sacked by Frank Clark on third down, and the 40-year-old journeyman didn't realize he couldn't stop the clock. It hit zero and the Chiefs took a 6-3 lead into the locker room.

Hoyer's second mistake came late in the third quarter, when he again felt the pocket collapse on a third-down play. This time, the Chiefs stripped the ball loose and recovered it, keeping New England from another field-goal attempt.

"Two bad decisions in the red area cost us points," he said.

Give the Chiefs enough chances and they'll usually close it out.

Finally taking advantage of a swing in momentum, Mahomes hit Hill and Travis Kelce with long passes to move swiftly downfield. And when Hill took a jet sweep to the pylon for a touchdown, the Chiefs had some breathing room. The Patriots answered behind a long run from Damien Harris, who had just been activated off IR, and a nifty catch by N'Keal Harry in the end zone. But the Chiefs kept moving on offense, taking advantage of pass interference and personal foul penalties by the least-flagged team in the league to set up Hardman's touchdown.

When Mathieu was perfectly positioned to catch a tipped pass and take it to the house, the Chiefs were headed toward a winning start to a grueling stretch of three games in 11 days that includes a visit to the Buffalo Bills.

"Still feel like we can play so much better and that I think's the goal," Mathieu said. "Forget about this game. Our younger guys stepped up, played well, but we're getting into the thick of it. We have two real tough opponents coming up and we need to find a way to win the next two games."

NORTHWEST STOCKS

Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes:			NW Natural	45.32	46.35
Stock	Close	Open	Skywest	31.56	31.95
Intel	51.70	52.26	Starbucks	88.47	88.44
Kroger	34.56	34.56	Umpqua Hldgs	12.01	12.29
Microsoft	210.31	207.93	Weyerhaeuser	29.74	29.50
Nike	127.90	129.03	Xerox	19.66	20.05

Levi Straus 15.00 14.91 Dow Jones closed at 28,146.14 NASDAQ closed at 11,328,93 S&P 500 closed at 3,408.42

Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones

LOTTERY

MegaMillions Oct. 2 9-38-47-49-68 Megaball: 25 Multiplier: x2 Jackpot: \$50 million

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

Powerball

Megabucks Oct. 5 8-12-18-23-35-43 Jackpot: \$2.8 Million Win For Life Oct. 5 8-41-71-77