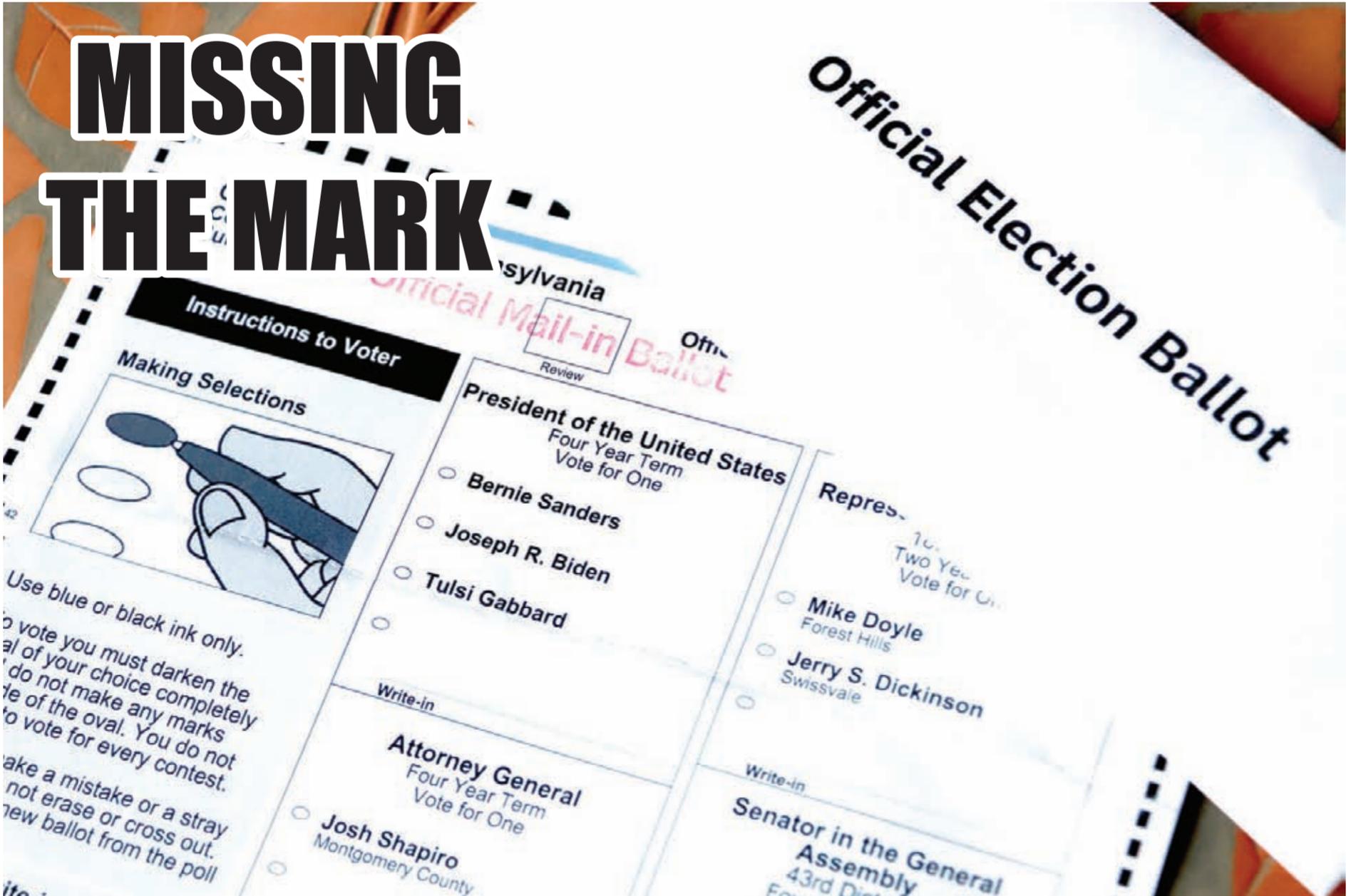




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This May 26, 2020, file photo shows an Official Democratic General Primary mail-in ballot and secrecy envelope, for the Pennsylvania primary in Pittsburgh. Associated Press

Voters' poorly marked ovals could lead to contested ballots

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — Two decades ago, Florida's hanging chads became an unlikely symbol of a disputed presidential election. This year, the issue could be poorly marked ovals or boxes. Amid the global coronavirus pandemic, more people than ever are expected to bypass their polling

place and cast absentee ballots for the first time. Voters marking ballots from home could lead to an increase in the kinds of mistakes that typically would be caught by a scanner or election worker at the polls. Experts say that's likely to mean more ballots with questionable marks requiring review. That's not necessarily a bad thing under nor-

mal circumstances, but President Donald Trump has repeatedly questioned the integrity of mail-in voting, and his campaign has already challenged aspects of it in court. While ballots subject to review have historically represented a tiny portion of overall ballots, it's possible disputes could arise and end up as part of a Florida-like fight, es-

pecially in battleground states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. "This could be 2000's hanging chad in Pennsylvania," said Suzanne Almeida, interim director of the state chapter of the nonpartisan watchdog Common Cause.

Continued on Page 2



24/7

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Voters' poorly marked ovals could lead to contested ballots

Continued from Front

"Potential challenges, delays in results, questions on which ballots count and who counts them — there are just a lot of questions, and that could open up Pennsylvania to a lot of uncertainty."

The group is working with election officials statewide, emphasizing clear and consistent guidelines for dealing with questionable marks, such as when a voter circles a name or uses an X or a checkmark rather than filling in the oval — or even crosses out one selection and marks a second.

While all states perform ballot reviews and have rules related to voter intent, some have never seen anything like this year's anticipated absentee ballot volume. In half the states, absentee ballots accounted for less than 10% of votes cast in 2016. Many could see half or more votes cast absentee this fall.

Colorado and Washington, two states accus-



In this Nov. 19, 2008, file photo, a ballot in Rochester, Minn., with markings next to both candidates, was challenged by both the Coleman and Franken campaigns on the first day of the recount for Minnesota's U.S. Senate election.

Associated Press

tomed to large volumes of hand-marked ballots, have comprehensive guidelines online detailing how to interpret almost every conceivable way a voter could mark a ballot. Procedures are in place for handling markings that may be disputed by partisan observers.

But when asked for a copy of Pennsylvania's guide-

lines, state election officials said it would take time to gather and directed The Associated Press to file an open records request.

Amber McReynolds, who formerly ran Denver's elections office, said consistency and detailed guidelines are essential. Otherwise, counties might perform reviews differently, leading to further challenges.

"You don't want to have a situation where you have one type of mark in a county that is processed and counted and in another it isn't," said McReynolds, who now leads The National Vote at Home Institute.

Safeguards built into the nation's myriad election systems to help voters avoid ballot-marking problems are mostly geared toward in-person voting. Touch-screen voting machines — though considered less secure by cybersecurity experts — do a better job than humans in marking ballots and warning voters if they try to vote twice in the same race.

In-person voting by paper ballot typically involves filling in an oval or box next to a candidate's name. In most places, voters then feed the ballots into a scanner designed to reject so-called overvotes, like attempting to fix a mistake by crossing out a name and filling in the oval next to another candidate.

Such problems during in-

person voting are easy to fix. Poll workers invalidate the ballot and give the voter a new one.

"But now, if most people are not voting with machines and are voting at home, they are not going to have that notification," said Larry Norden, an elections expert with the Brennan Center for Justice.

This fall, as many as three in four voters could be voting on ballots received in the mail. That means following instructions carefully. If voters make a mistake, they should contact their local election office; it may mean requesting a replacement ballot.

Experts point to Georgia's experience after the June primary as a cautionary tale.

During vote counting, some counties reported what appeared to be valid votes that weren't flagged for review by the state's new high-capacity ballot scanners, which process large volumes of absentee ballots at once. □

Appellate court halts Wisconsin ballot-counting extension



This April 19, 2010 file photo shows U.S. District Judge William Conley at the U.S. Courthouse in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

By **TODD RICHMOND**
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A

federal appeals court on Sunday temporarily halted a six-day extension for

counting absentee ballots in Wisconsin's presidential election, a momentary victory for Republicans and President Donald Trump in the key presidential battleground state.

As it stands, ballots will now be due by 8 p.m. on Election Day. A lower court judge had sided with Democrats and their allies to extend the deadline until Nov. 9. Democrats sought more time as a way to help deal with an expected historic high number of absentee ballots.

The Democratic National Committee, the state

Democratic Party and allied groups including the League of Women Voters sued to extend the deadline for counting absentee ballots after the April presidential primary saw long lines, fewer polling places, a shortage of workers and thousands of ballots mailed days after the election.

U.S. District Judge William Conley ruled Sept. 21 that ballots that arrive up to six days after Election Day will count as long as they're postmarked by Election Day. Sunday's action puts Conley's order on hold until the 7th Circuit U.S.

Court of Appeals or U.S. Supreme Court issues any further action. No further details were immediately posted by the appeals court. State election officials anticipate as many as 2 million people will cast absentee ballots to avoid catching the coronavirus at the polls. That would be three times more absentee ballots than any other previous election and could overwhelm both election officials and the postal service, Conley wrote. If the decision had stood it could have delayed knowing the winner of Wisconsin for days. □

Jill Biden, Doug Emhoff team up in final campaign stretch

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE

Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)

— Jill Biden and Doug Emhoff are both from New Jersey. They married politicians who have been in the national spotlight for years. And now they're building a team as the better halves of the Joe Biden campaign.

Biden and Emhoff have rapidly become two of the campaign's most prolific surrogates, engaging in in-person campaign events and virtual fundraisers at a pace that often outmatches their spouses at the top of the ticket.

While Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have spent their days campaigning in key states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Florida, Jill Biden and Emhoff have had nonstop schedules of virtual fundraisers, constituency-focused events and trips to important but less high-profile states like Virginia and Maine, where Jill Biden visited this week.

They've campaigned together more than their spouses have, visiting New Hampshire earlier this month and Iowa over the weekend. And in a joint interview this weekend, they said they've begun to build a partnership that will help the campaign and a potential Biden administra-



Jill Biden, front left, wife of Democratic presidential candidate former vice president Joe Biden, and Doug Emhoff, center, husband of Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., place campaign placards into the ground during a campaign stop, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Manchester, N.H.

tion.

"Don't you think the American people love seeing people in government who respect one another and are friends with one another?" Jill Biden said as she campaigned in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Saturday. "Especially in this time of the pandemic, and it's such a divisive government that we're living in now, this chaos of Donald Trump's America, I think people are looking for people who are strong to come together to lead this country forward.

And I think the four of us are going to show that."

Emhoff and Biden spent the day touring damage from the recent derecho that hit Iowa, helping a group of volunteers clean up a park hit by the storm and speaking at a drive-in rally later that afternoon.

Emhoff said every interaction they have with voters they take back home to their spouses, to help them better understand the challenges confronting Americans.

"Whether it's vets or health

care or all these issues that are important to people right now, we're out here listening, and we're literally going right back to Joe and Kamala with these notes from the field. So it's just the more we can do things together and experience this together, the stronger they're going to be," he said.

It wasn't their first time campaigning together — the two hit the trail earlier this month in New Hampshire, where they held events focused on health care and

veterans.

The participants included Billy Shaheen, husband of Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. He said he had a three-hour dinner with Emhoff and Harris back in January and came away impressed with them both. "Doug is going to be great. He'll be a great second gentleman. He's a good balance for her. He really supports her," he said in an interview.

Their busy schedules reflect in part the traditional strategic role of the spouses on a presidential campaign — essentially doubling the campaign's footprint, amplifying its core message and expanding it to broader constituencies. Jill Biden has become one of the campaign's main surrogates for Latino outreach and, as a teacher herself, often holds events focused on teachers and education. Emhoff, with his network of deep-pocketed donors as an entertainment lawyer, has done fundraising for the campaign and headlined a number of Jewish outreach events.

But the pace also reflects what's perhaps a more urgent imperative for a political spouse in the age of Trump, when Biden himself has made an explicit argument that "character is on the ballot" this fall. □

Associated Press

NY Times: Trump paid \$750 in US income taxes in 2016, 2017

By The Associated Press

President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House, according to a report Sunday in The New York Times. Trump, who has fiercely guarded his tax filings and is the only president in modern times not to make them public, paid no federal income taxes in 10 of the past 15 years. He campaigned for office as a billionaire real estate mogul and successful businessman.

Speaking at a news conference at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as "fake news" and said he has paid taxes, though he

gave no specifics. The disclosure, which the Times said comes from tax return data it obtained extending over two decades, comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the first presidential debate Tuesday and weeks before a divisive election against Democrat Joe Biden. The president vowed that information about his taxes "will all be revealed." But he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through.

In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, includ-

ing the U.S. House, which is suing for access to Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

A lawyer for the Trump Organization, Alan Garten, and a spokesperson for the Trump Organization did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press on the report.

Garten told the Times that "most, if not all, of the facts appear to be inaccurate." He said in a statement to the news organization that the president "has paid tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the federal government, including paying millions in personal taxes since announcing his



President Donald Trump speaking during a news conference at the White House, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

candidacy in 2015."

During his first general election debate against Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, Clinton said that perhaps Trump wasn't releasing his

tax returns because he had paid nothing in federal taxes.

Trump interrupted her to say, "That makes me smart." □

With anger at police high, officers face greater danger

By **DON BABWIN**

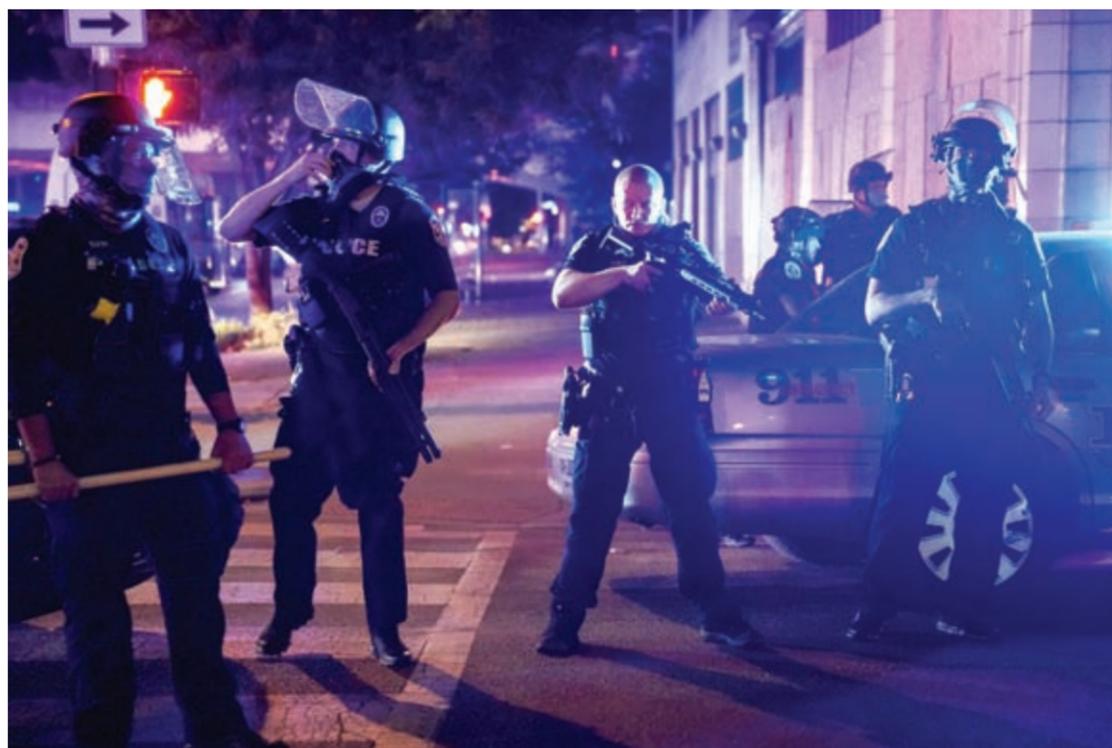
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A man walks up to a squad car and opens fire on two sheriff's deputies sitting inside. Two police officers are shot after responding to sounds of gunfire during a protest. The shootings — one in Los Angeles and the other 2000 miles (3,200 kilometers) away in Louisville, Kentucky, less than two weeks later — are stark reminders of the dangers law enforcement officers face at a time when anger toward them in the wake of police killings of Black Americans, such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, has boiled over.

"I think it's more than a suggestion that people are seeking to do harm to cops," Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown told reporters at a recent briefing.

The suspect who shot the deputies in Los Angeles has not been caught, so it's not known why he opened fire. And authorities have not said why the suspect in Louisville, who was captured, targeted the officers. Those shootings came during protests of a grand jury decision not to charge police for Taylor's killing.

It is unclear how many times officers across the country have been shot at or otherwise attacked this year; police departments



Police stand guard on the perimeter of a crime scene after a police officer was shot, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, in Louisville, Ky.

say such statistics are not readily available.

But the few statistics available, such as those compiled by the FBI, show so far this year 37 law enforcement officers in the United States have been "feloniously killed" in the line of duty compared to 30 such deaths at this point last year. There are some 8,000 police agencies around the country, and tens of thousands of uniformed law enforcement officers.

Experts and law enforcement officials agree that it is no coincidence that such violence comes at a time when Floyd's killing and

the resulting nationwide protests have thrust law enforcement officers into the spotlight. Videos of Black Americans being killed or wounded by police have played out across the nation's television screens, including one that showed the last moments of Floyd's life under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer and another showing a Kenosha, Wisconsin, officer firing seven bullets into Jacob Blake's back, leaving him paralyzed.

In the ensuing demonstrations, police have both been criticized by those who saw their response

in many cities as heavy-handed and the target of several violent attacks. Officers have been shot at, run over, blinded and jeered at by angry crowds who have wished for their deaths.

The very role of police has been called into question and become a central theme in this year's election. President Donald Trump and his supporters believe violence against police deserves more attention in the national debate centered on addressing racial inequality in the criminal justice system.

"Part of what we are seeing is the response to images

of officers killing people in ways the public sees as undeserved (and) rulings like the one in the Breonna Taylor case where it looks like the courts are willing to hold the safety of officers above the safety of civilians when they are often asleep and unarmed," said Delores Jones-Brown, a retired professor from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. There's no question that police officers all over the country feel they are under siege.

"We're hyper vigilant anyway as a profession, but when officers are shot here and another parts of the country, it makes us even more concerned about the safety of our officers," said Brown, Chicago's police superintendent.

According to the police department there, 66 officers have been shot at thus far this year, compared to 17 at this point last year. Ten were struck by the bullets and wounded. Last year at this time, three officers had been hit.

In a "Potential Activity Alert," first reported on by ABC 7 in Chicago, the FBI warned the police department that a person had notified the federal agency that several street gangs had "formed a pact to 'shoot on-site any cop that has a weapon drawn on any subject in public.'" □

Associated Press

Man takes officer's gun, opens fire inside LA police station



In this Aug. 11, 2011, file photo, Gigi Jordan, the multimillionaire mother charged with killing her autistic 8-year-old son, appears in Manhattan Supreme court in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has ordered a new trial for a self-made health

care millionaire who was convicted six years ago of fatally drugging her 8-year-

old autistic son in a luxury New York City hotel room in 2010.

Friday's ruling by Manhattan Federal Magistrate Judge Sarah Cave stems from a 2014 closed courtroom discussion that was requested by the lead prosecutor in the case. Cave determined the off-the-record exchange regarding online material had violated Gigi Jordan's Sixth Amendment right to a public trial. At the time, one of Jordan's lawyers repeatedly objected to the private discussion.

"The trial court's closure of the courtroom was

deliberate, over the multiple, strenuous objections of Jordan's counsel, and was a closure that the trial court in fact acknowledged after the fact may well have been erroneous," Cave wrote, arguing that Jordan's right to a public trial applied to the proceeding.

A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. said in a written statement that the office "strenuously disagrees" with the ruling and intends to immediately appeal the decision to Manhattan federal appeals judges. If it becomes necessary,

spokesperson Danny Frost said, the office will retry Jordan for killing her son, Jude Mirra.

Jordan was sentenced in 2015 to serve 18 years in prison after a jury found her guilty of first-degree manslaughter, instead of murder, deciding she was under "extreme emotional disturbance" when she administered her son a fatal dose of Ambien and Xanax. Lawyers for the nurse-turned-pharmaceutical entrepreneur, argued that Jordan acted out of fear that her life was in danger and that her son would be left susceptible to abuse. □

Fighting erupts between Armenia, Azerbaijan; 18 killed

By AVET DEMOURIAN

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) —

Fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces has erupted again over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the territory's defense ministry said 16 soldiers and two civilians have been killed and more than 100 others wounded.

Azerbaijan's president, meanwhile, says his military has suffered losses, but gave no details.

Armenia also claimed that four Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down and 33 Azerbaijani tanks and fighting vehicles were hit by artillery. Azerbaijan's defense ministry rejected an earlier claim that two helicopters were shot down.

The heavy fighting broke out in the morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war.

It was not immediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities reported that shelling hit the region's capital of Stepanakert and the towns of Martakert and Martuni.



In this photo provided by the Azerbaijan's Presidential Press Office provided on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev gestures as he addresses the nation in Baku, Azerbaijan. Associated Press

Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan also said Azerbaijani shelling hit within Armenian territory near the town of Vardenis.

The territorial defense ministry said late Sunday that 18 people were killed, including a woman and her grandson and more than 100 wounded.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev ordered martial law be imposed in some regions of the country and called for a curfew in major cities.

In a televised address to the nation, Aliyev said that "there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment," but didn't give further details. He also claimed that "many units of the enemy's military equipment have been destroyed."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "is conducting intensive contacts in order to induce the parties to cease fire and start negotiations to stabilize

the situation," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, called on the sides to stop fighting. The long-unsuccessful negotiations for resolving the territory's status has been conducted under OSCE auspices.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Sunday said the country could re-examine whether to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as

independent. Such a move would likely obstruct further negotiations.

Foreign Minister Javad Zarif of Iran, which borders both Azerbaijan and Armenia, said "We call for an immediate end to hostilities and urge dialogue to resolve differences. Our neighbors are our priority and we are ready to provide good offices to enable talks."

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin condemned Armenia.

"Armenia has violated the cease-fire by attacking civilian settlements ... the international community must immediately say stop to this dangerous provocation," Kalin tweeted. Turkey is a close ally of Azerbaijan and locked in a long dispute with Armenia that has closed the countries' border since the early 1990s.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "calls on the sides to immediately stop fighting, de-escalate tensions and return to meaningful negotiations without delay," said his spokesman Stephane Dujarric. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun called the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan to urge cessation of hostilities, said State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus. □

North Korea accuses South of intrusion to find dead official

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea accused South Korea of sending ships across the disputed sea boundary to find the body of a South Korean official recently killed by North Korean troops, warning Sunday the intrusion could escalate tensions. South Korea denied the accusation. "We urge the South side to immediately halt the intrusion across the military demarcation line in the West Sea that may lead to escalation of tensions," the official Korean Central News Agency said. "It arouses our due vigilance as it may lead to another awful incident." Along with its denial, South Korea pro-

posed a joint investigation to resolve discrepancies in each country's account of the South Korean official's death last week. Officials in Seoul have said the 47-year-old was likely attempting to defect before North Korean troops aboard a boat fatally shot him and burned his body.

According to Seoul, North Korea on Friday sent a message including a rare apology by leader Kim Jong Un for the shooting death of the official, who was found floating on an object in its waters.

The North Korean message distributed by South Korea said its troops shot the official because he attempted to flee after refusing to answer to questions. It said

North Korea maintained troops were unable to find the official's body and burned the object he was floating on in line with anti-coronavirus rules. Sunday's KCNA report confirmed North Korea notified South Korea on Friday with its account of the incident, but it didn't say whether the notification included an apology from Kim. South Korea's military and coast guard responded to North Korea's claim of a border incursion by saying their ships and aircraft have been searching waters south of the boundary since Friday in case the official's body drifts back.

Senior presidential official Suh Choo-suk said South Korea also wants North Korea to restore a suspended



South Korean marine boat patrols near Yeonpyeong island, South Korea, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020. Associated Press

military hotline between the nations to facilitate communications. Kim's apology was seen as an attempt to soothe anti-North sentiment in South Korea that could make it difficult for him to win concessions in any negotiations. Kim

is currently struggling to overcome worsening economic woes caused by U.S.-led sanctions over his nuclear program and the pandemic that forced his country to close its border with China, its biggest trading partner. □

Swiss reject nationalist plan to limit jobs for EU citizens

By **NADINE ACHOUI-LES-AGE** and **FRANK JORDANS**
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Voters in Switzerland on Sunday strongly defeated a nationalist party's proposal to limit the number of European Union citizens allowed to live and work in their country.

Swiss public broadcaster SRF reported that the measure was rejected by 61.7% of voters, with 38.3% in favor. All but four of the country's 26 cantons, or states, likewise opposed the plan — proposed by the Swiss People's Party — to give preferential access to jobs, social protection and benefits to people from Switzerland over those from the 27-nation bloc that surrounds it. The government had warned that the measure could further strain the rich Alpine's country's deep and lucrative ties to the EU. It could also have triggered reciprocal disadvantages for millions of Swiss citizens if they want to live or work in the EU.

"Especially at this time, during the difficult economic situation caused by the corona crisis, good relations with our neighbors and with the EU are important," Justice Minister Karin Keller-Sutter said, welcoming the outcome of the vote.

She said Switzerland would



Laura Zimmermann, Co-President of Operation Libero, centre, together with Valentin Vogt, President of the Swiss Employers' Federation, Renato Perlini, campaign manager of Operation Libero, and Stefan Manser-Egli, Co-President of Operation Libero, from left, are pleased with the result of the vote at the meeting of opponents of the popular initiative "For moderate immigration" (restrictive initiative), on Sunday 27 September 2020 at the Hotel Schweizerhof in Bern, Switzerland.
Associated Press

continue to pursue a "bilateral path" with the EU, eschewing membership of the bloc while seeking close economic ties with it. In a nod to the misgivings many Swiss have about the country's big neighbor, Keller-Sutter acknowledged that "freedom of movement doesn't just have benefits."

"The Federal Council only wants as much immigration as necessary," she said. "That continues to be our

goal."

Roughly 1.4 million EU citizens live in the country of about 8.6 million, while around 500,000 Swiss live in EU countries. Some are dual citizens and wouldn't have been affected by any restrictions.

In a similar referendum in 2014, the Swiss narrowly voted in favor of limiting EU citizens' freedom to live and work in Switzerland. Lawmakers, however, refused to fully implement that ref-

erendum fearing a hefty impact on Swiss society and businesses, prompting the People's Party to get the issue back on the ballot again this year.

Since the last vote, Switzerland has witnessed the turmoil that Britain's 2016 referendum to leave the European Union has caused, especially for EU citizens in the U.K. and Britons living on the continent. Britain left the EU in January, but is in a transition period until the

end of the year with prospects for a deal on future relations between London and Brussels still uncertain.

Voter Yann Grote in Geneva said he didn't approve of further limiting freedom of movement. Fellow voter Elisabeth Lopes agreed.

"I'm a daughter of immigrants, so it is a matter that touches me," she said. "If Switzerland had to withdraw or reduce these agreements (with the EU), I think we would be the real losers." In Brussels, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the result of the referendum, calling it "a positive signal to continue to consolidate and deepen our relationship." The freedom-of-movement measure was being considered alongside nationwide votes on several other issues.

SRF reported that a majority of voters backed plans for paid paternity leave and for the purchase of up to 6 billion francs (about \$6.5 billion) worth of new fighter planes by 2030. Voters rejected measures on the right to hunt wolves to keep their population down and on increasing tax breaks for child care.

Turnout was higher than in most recent referendums, almost 60% of voters going to the polls or casting their ballots by mail. □

Mali transitional government appoints new prime minister



Delegates attend a ceremony to swear in the transitional president and vice president in the capital Bamako, Mali, Friday, Sept. 25, 2020.

Associated Press

By **BABA AHMED**
Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Mali's transitional president

appointed former minister of foreign affairs, Moctar Ouane, on Sunday as the West African nation's prime

minister days after being sworn into office.

The appointment of a civilian prime minister was a major condition imposed by the West African regional economic bloc, ECOWAS, on Mali to lift sanctions that were imposed after an Aug. 18 coup. ECOWAS had closed borders to Mali and stopped financial flows to put pressure on the junta to quickly return to a civilian government.

Former Defense Minister and retired Col. Maj. Bah N'Daw was inducted Friday as the new transitional president while Col. Assimi Goita, head of the junta that staged the coup, was installed as Mali's new vice

president. The three government heads are to lead the transitional government to an election in 18 months. The appointment of Ouane, 64, was made by official decree Sunday and signed by N'Daw. Ouane was minister of foreign affairs from 2004 to 2011 under former President Amadou Toumani Toure.

The junta, which calls itself the National Committee for the Salvation of the People, deposed President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August, detaining him, the prime minister and other government officials. Keita, who became ill, was eventually released and has gone to the United Arab Emirates

for treatment.

U.N. officials have called for the release of the 13 of the 18 detained officials still being held at the Kati military camp in the Malian capital of Bamako.

There has been widespread concern that the upheaval in Mali will set back efforts to contain the country's growing Islamic insurgency. After a similar coup in 2012, Islamic extremists grabbed control of major towns in northern Mali.

Only a 2013 military intervention led by France pushed extremists out of those towns and the international community has spent seven years battling the militants. □

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Virus disrupting Rio's Carnival for first time in a century

By **MARCELO DE SOUSA**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A cloud of uncertainty that has hung over Rio de Janeiro throughout the coronavirus pandemic has been lifted, but gloom remains — the annual Carnival parade of flamboyant samba schools won't be held in February. And while the decision is being characterized as a postponement of the event, no new date has been set.

Rio's League of Samba Schools, LIESA, announced Thursday night that the spread of the coronavirus has made it impossible to safely hold the traditional parades that are a cultural mainstay and, for many, a source of livelihood.

"Carnival is a party upon which many humble workers depend. The samba schools are community institutions, and the parades are just one detail of all that," Luiz Antonio Simas, a historian who specializes in

Rio's Carnival, said in an interview. "An entire cultural and productive chain was disrupted by COVID."

Rio's City Hall has yet to announce a decision about the Carnival street parties that also take place across the city. But its tourism promotion agency said in a statement to The Associated Press on Sept. 17 that without a coronavirus vaccine, it is uncertain when large public events can resume.

Brazil's first confirmed coronavirus case was Feb. 26, one day after this year's Carnival ended. As the number of infections grew, the samba schools that participate in the glitzy annual parade halted preparations for the 2021 event.

Nearly all of Rio's samba schools are closely linked to working class communities. Their processions include elaborate floats accompanied by tireless drummers and costumed dancers who sing at the

top of their lungs to impress a panel of judges. Tens of thousands of spectators pack the bleachers of the arena, known as the Sambadrome, while tens of millions watch on television.

Before the schools began competing in the 1930s, Carnival was celebrated in dance halls and haphazardly on the streets, Simas said. The parades entered the Sambadrome in the 1980s, and have become Rio's quintessential Carnival display.

The immense labor required for each show was already stymied by restrictions on gatherings that Rio's governor imposed in March. Even with those measures, Rio's metropolitan region, home to 13 million people, so far has recorded more than 15,000 deaths from COVID-19.

Beneath the Sambadrome's bleachers, the city created a homeless shelter for the vulnerable population during the pandemic.



The Sambadrome parade runway stands empty in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Sept. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

Samba schools suspended float construction, costume sewing, dance rehearsals, and also social projects. The Mangueira school's program in the favela near downtown Rio that teaches music to children — keeping them away from crime, and cultivating the school's future drummers — hasn't held classes since March. The pulse of entire suburban Rio cities like Nilopo-

lis, whose population of 160,000 cheers the Beija-Flor samba school, has faded, Simas said.

Some performers resorted to odd jobs and gigs. Diogo Jesús, the lead dancer referred to as "master of ceremonies" in the Mocidade school, couldn't make rent without his income from private events. He started driving for Uber and sewing facemasks to sell at a fair. □



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My Aruba story ... memories of loyal followers



ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today welcomes readers to participate in our newspaper. Now that we are open to visitors again after the three months of lockdown we are all ears to hear about you. How do you feel to be back or maybe this is your first time in Aruba? Let us know! Send us a picture and tell us about your experience because we love to share this with our readers.

What do you do?

It's easy. Mail us your vacation picture(s) together with your Aruba story (Email: news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish this in our newspaper. This for sure is a great vacation memory to take home with you.

For today's newspaper we received this great pictures and wonderful words from **Lauren Kostantin**.

"My Aruba story started only a few years ago. I went for a long weekend on a getaway and fell in love with the island and knew I would always return. Since then I have been fortunate enough to return a few times a year with my family and great friends. We recently purchased at Playa Linda and I can't wait to get back. The kindness of all the locals makes me feel so special and right at home. The local restaurants are out of this world, the food is amazing and they always remember my name. My days start early, about 0400 to enjoy the sunrise and to grab my favorite chickee of course. Breakfast at Eduardos is a daily ritual and if I'm really hungry I go to either Salt & Peppers or Chicken and Lobster, they are both amazing. The Bloody Marys at Scotts Brats are a must as well. The VIP morning snorkel on the Blue Melody has become a tradition, the grilled cheese is out of this world! Aruba would not be the same without them.

The breath taking beauty of the beaches are heaven to me, my eyes have never seen such shades of blue. In the evenings it's so wonderful to walk out of your resort at night and go out into town to eat, dance and shop. I feel safer on the island than I do at home. I could go on for days...

Thank you for sharing paradise with me."



My Aruba story ... memories of loyal followers



Continued from Page 8

We also share a great story sent to us by our loyal follower **Jo Ann Junk**. As Jo Ann says herself: "I realize it is rather lengthy but quite honestly, I have been looking for an outlet for a very long time to express my love of Aruba. Once I got going, I couldn't stop until I got all those feelings out. Thank you for allowing me to do that. We had reservations three different times this year, and had to cancel all three times due to Covid-19 (my husband is very high risk). I am truly counting the days until May 17th when we return for four weeks. I am REALLY missing Aruba right now! I send you all the very best, please be safe. God bless you and yours."

Jo Ann's story will be published in 2 parts, today we start with Part I. Enjoy!

"My Beloved Aruba – Part I

Aruba is so much more than a vacation destination to me. It is a little bit magic, a little bit of heaven, and a whole lot of "home." Aruba captured our hearts 34 years ago on our first visit ... and it continues to do so every year when we return. The joke in our family and amongst friends is what I tell everyone about Aruba ... every year when I arrive in Aruba I leave my heart there, so I have to return the following year to reclaim my heart ... and so it goes, every year. Over the years we have been blessed to have visited most all of the islands in the Caribbean. But I promise you, from the bottom of my heart ... none can compare with the happy island of Aruba. It's so much more than the incredible beauty of this island with the white sand beaches, the turquoise waters and the wonderful, scrumptious food. The heart of Aruba is the people of Aruba. They just embrace you with this amazing love, they immediately feel like family. When we leave Aruba bound for the US, the countdown starts right away How many days until we'll be returning to Aruba once again. How many days until we feel those welcoming hugs, and hear those wonderful words ... "welcome home!"

Aruba, in the 80's and 90's was so quaint. The goats roaming the streets every day – the really HUGE iguanas – the tiny airport, where you had to walk to board the plane on the tarmac ... sometimes in the pouring down rain. It does not bear a resemblance to the Aruba of today ... still quaint, still full of love, but with great growth ... comes change ... and we must, of course embrace change.

We purchased a Marriott Ocean Club and Surf Club long before construction began. It was almost two years before we could even occupy what we had purchased, so we stayed at the Hyatt. So many memories, so many changes. Our "little Aruba" had grown up. With the growth came wonderful advantages that we didn't have before. It even brought a large, wonderful supermarket very close to the hotel zone.

Often times when we came to Aruba it would be just the two of us ... other times we'd bring the whole family (around 13-15 of us). Several times we brought many friends, there were around 40-45 of us. Many have purchased condos and time shares, because they too, fell in love with our beloved Aruba. We always arrive in Aruba during May (sometimes also in November). We stay anywhere from 2-4 weeks. Every single year has been an amazing, blessing in our lives." □



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SCAN ME FOR MENU



ST. CRUZ — The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. Let's see what news they have for us to-

day.

The park invites you to discover its natural treasures maintaining the respect for its flora and fauna.

Take a hike with a Park Ranger and visit the visitor's center with interesting information. If you are not up to walking, you can

drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day.

Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in

Let's go to the park

it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them. The Arikok National Park comprises almost 18 % of the island. It has rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna. The sea turtle lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas in Noord which is a bird sanctuary. Recently 16 areas on the island have officially been declared protected nature areas.

Rules and regulations

FPNA, the Foundation National Park Aruba, would like to remind all visitors to please abide by the Rules and Regulations that apply throughout Parke Nacional Arikok and Ramsar

site Spaans Lagoen. These Rules & Regulations are an important instrument for our conservation work. The natural landscapes are beautiful, please help us conserve during your visit. If you do not comply our Park Rangers have the authority to request you to abandon the protected area. Enjoy nature responsibly!

Marine life protection

Over the past months intern Danielle de Kool, finishing her Masters in Marine Resource Management & Ecology at Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in The Netherlands, has been developing a marine monitoring protocol for FPNA's Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). Last week De Kool and the park's Research & Conservation Manager Giancarlo Nunes have been testing the protocol at MPA Mangel Halto. □

Welcome to Parke Nacional Arikok

Opening Hours: 8 AM to 4 PM

Rules & Regulations

Please protect our nature and abide by the rules & regulations

A valid conservation fee ticket is required by law to enter the park

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Protect our nature
Don't litter*
Proteha nos naturalesa
No tira sushi*

TikTok fate in the balance as judge weighs app store ban

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
and MATT O'BRIEN
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyers for TikTok pleaded with a U.S. federal judge on Sunday to delay the Trump Administration's ban of the popular video sharing program from app stores set to take effect at the end of the day, arguing the move would infringe on First Amendment rights and do irreparable harm to the business.

The 90-minute hearing came after President Donald Trump declared this summer that TikTok was a threat to national security and that it either sold its U.S. operations to U.S. companies or the app would be barred from the country.

TikTok, owned by Chinese company ByteDance, is scrambling to firm up a deal tentatively struck a week ago in which it would partner with tech company Oracle and retailer Walmart and that would get the blessing of the Chinese and American governments. In the meantime, it is fighting to keep the app available in the U.S.

The ban on new downloads of TikTok, which has about 100 million users in the U.S., was delayed once by the government. A more comprehensive ban is scheduled for November, about a week after the presidential election. Judge Carl Nichols of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said he would make a decision by late Sunday, leaving TikTok's fate hanging.

In arguments to Judge Nichols, TikTok lawyer John Hall said that TikTok is more than an app but rather is a "modern day version of a town square."

"If that prohibition goes into effect at midnight, the consequences immediately are grave," Hall said. "It would be no different than the government locking the doors to a public forum, roping off that town square" at a time when a free exchange of ideas is necessary heading into a polarized election.

Hall called the ban "puni-



This Feb. 25, 2020, file photo, shows the icon for TikTok in New York.

five," noting that this is "just a blunt way to whack the company now while doing nothing to achieve the stated objective of the prohibition."

TikTok lawyers also argued that a ban on the app would stop tens of thousands of potential viewers and content creators every month and would also hurt its ability to hire new talent. In addition, Hall argued that a ban would prevent existing users from automatically receiving security updates, eroding national security.

Justice Department lawyer Daniel Schwei sought to undercut TikTok lawyers' argument, saying that Chinese companies are not purely private and are subject to intrusive laws compelling their cooperation with intelligence agencies. The Justice Department has also argued that economic regulations of this nature generally are not subject to First Amendment scrutiny. Plaintiffs can't claim a First Amendment right in hosting TikTok itself as a platform for others' speech because merely hosting a platform is not an exercise of the First Amendment, the Justice Department contends.

"This is the most immediate national security threat," argued Schwei. "It is a threat today. It is a risk today and therefore it deserves to be

addressed today even while other things are ongoing and playing out." Schwei also argued that TikTok lawyers failed to prove it would suffer irreparable business harm.

The Justice Department laid out its objections to TikTok's motion for a temporary injunction in a brief under seal, but it was unsealed in redacted form to protect confidential business information.

Trump set the process in motion with executive orders in August that declared TikTok and another Chinese app, WeChat, as threats to national security. The White House says the video service is a security risk because the personal information of its millions of U.S. users could be handed over to Chinese authorities. Trump has said he would approve a proposed deal in which Oracle and Walmart could initially own a combined 20% of a new U.S. entity, TikTok Global. Trump also said he could retract his approval if Oracle doesn't have "total control."

The two sides of the TikTok deal have also appeared at odds over the corporate structure of TikTok Global. ByteDance said last week that it will still own 80% of the U.S. entity after a financing round. Oracle, meanwhile, put out a statement saying

export license after Beijing tightened control over exports last month in an effort to gain leverage over Washington's attempt to force an outright sale of TikTok to U.S. owners.

China's foreign ministry has said the government will "take necessary measures" to safeguard its companies but gave no indication what steps it can take to affect TikTok's fate in the United States.

TikTok is suing the U.S. government over Trump's Aug. 6 executive order, saying it is unlawful. So are resulting Commerce Department prohibitions that aim to kick TikTok out of U.S. app stores and, in November, essentially shut it down in the U.S., it claimed.

The Chinese firm said the president doesn't have the authority to take these actions under the national-security law he cited; that the ban violates TikTok's First Amendment speech rights and Fifth Amendment due-process rights; and that there's no authority for the restrictions because they are not based on a national emergency. □

Associated Press

that Americans "will be the majority and ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global."

Chinese media have criticized the deal as bullying and extortion, suggesting that the Chinese government is not happy with the arrangement. ByteDance said Thursday it has applied for a Chinese technology

Company to pay \$60M for deceptive marketing with pelvic mesh

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A company that failed to adequately inform women of dangerous side effects related to permanent pelvic mesh devices will be required to pay \$60 million, according to a settlement announced this week by state attorneys general across the U.S. The money from C.R. Bard, Inc. and its parent company Becton, Dickinson and Company, will be spread out among 48 states and the District of Columbia. For example, Arizona will receive \$1.15 million. Mississippi is set to receive around \$840,000. "C.R. Bard failed to disclose serious and life-altering risks of permanently implanted surgical mesh devices, leaving

thousands of women to suffer," Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch said in a statement. "This settlement holds Bard accountable for its deceptive business practices." Troy Kirkpatrick, a spokesperson for Becton, Dickinson and Co., said Friday morning that C.R. Bard and its parent company have denied any allegations of wrongdoing. He said the company chose to settle the matter "to avoid the time and expense of further litigation." C.R. Bard Inc. is just the latest manufacturer of transvaginal mesh, a net-like implant used to treat stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, to be required by the court to pay a large sum. □

Tiny airborne particles may pose a big coronavirus problem

By **MALCOLM RITTER**

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At a University of Maryland lab, people infected with the new coronavirus take turns sitting in a chair and putting their faces into the big end of a large cone. They recite the alphabet and sing or just sit quietly for a half hour. Sometimes they cough.

The cone sucks up everything that comes out of their mouths and noses. It's part of a device called "Gesundheit II" that is helping scientists study a big question: Just how does the virus that causes COVID-19 spread from one person to another?

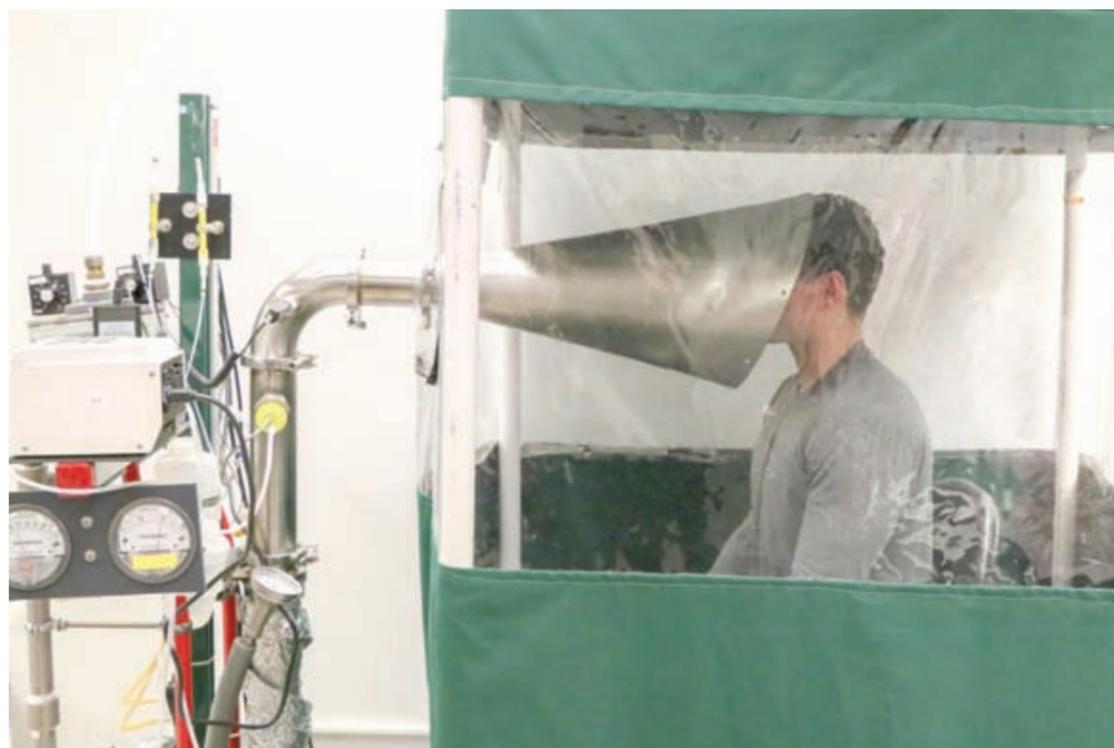
It clearly hitchhikes on small liquid particles sprayed out by an infected person. People expel particles while coughing, sneezing, singing, shouting, talking and even breathing. But the drops come in a wide range of sizes, and scientists are trying to pin down how risky the various kinds are.

The answer affects what we should all be doing to avoid getting sick. That's why it was thrust into headlines a few days ago when a U.S. health agency appeared to have shifted its position on the issue, but later said it had published new language in error.

The recommendation to stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart — some authorities cite about half that distance — is based on the idea that larger particles fall to the ground before they can travel very far. They are like the droplets in a spritz of a window cleaner, and they can infect somebody by landing on their nose, mouth or eyes, or maybe being inhaled.

But some scientists are now focusing on tinier particles, the ones that spread more like cigarette smoke. Those are carried by wisps of air and even upward drafts caused by the warmth of our bodies. They can linger in the air for minutes to hours, spreading throughout a room and build up if ventilation is poor.

The potential risk comes



This February 2018 photo provided by the University of Maryland School of Public Health shows The Gesundheit II machine in Dr. Donald Milton's Public Health Aerobiology, Virology, and Exhaled Biomarker Laboratory of the university in College Park, Md.

from inhaling them. Measles can spread this way, but the new coronavirus is far less contagious than that.

For these particles, called aerosols, "6 feet is not a magic distance," says Linsey Marr, a leading researcher who is studying them at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. But she says it's still important to keep one's distance from others, "the farther the better," because aerosols are most concentrated near a source and pose a bigger risk at close range.

Public health agencies have generally focused on the larger particles for coronavirus. That prompted more than 200 other scientists to publish a plea in July to pay attention to the potential risk from aerosols. The World Health Organization, which had long dismissed a danger from aerosols except in the case of certain medical procedures, later said that aerosol transmission of the coronavirus can't be ruled out in cases of infection within crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

The issue drew attention recently when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted and then deleted statements on its website that highlighted the idea of aerosol spread.

The agency said the posting was an error, and that the statements were just a draft of proposed changes to its recommendations.

Dr. Jay Butler, CDC's deputy director for infectious disease, told The Associated Press that the agency continues to believe larger and heavier droplets that come from coughing or sneezing are the primary means of transmission.

Last month Butler told a scientific meeting that current research suggests aerosol spreading of the coronavirus is possible but it doesn't seem to be the main way that people get infected. Further research may change that conclusion, he added, and he urged scientists to study how often aerosol spread of the coronavirus occurs, what situations make it more likely and what reasonable steps might prevent it.

Marr said she thinks infection by aerosols is "happening a lot more than people initially were willing to think."

As a key piece of evidence, Marr and others point to so-called "superspreader" events where one infected person evidently passed the virus to many others in a single setting.

In March, for example, after a choir member with coronavirus symptoms attended

a rehearsal in Washington state, 52 others who had been seated throughout the room were found to be infected and two died. In a crowded and poorly ventilated restaurant in China in January, the virus evidently spread from a lunchtime patron to five people at two adjoining tables in a pattern suggesting aerosols were spread by the air conditioner. Also in January, a passenger on a Chinese bus apparently infected 23 others, many of whom were scattered around the vehicle. Butler said such events raise concern about aerosol spread but don't prove it happens.

There could be another way for tiny particles to spread. They may not necessarily come directly from somebody's mouth or nose, says William Ristenpart of the University of California, Davis. His research found that if paper tissues are seeded with influenza virus and then crumpled, they give off particles that bear the virus. So people emptying a wastebasket with tissues discarded by somebody with COVID-19 should be sure to wear a mask, he said. Wearing a mask is still important, and make sure it fits snugly. Keep washing those hands diligently. And again, staying farther apart is better than being closer

together. Avoid crowds, especially indoors.

Their main addition to recommendations is ventilation to avoid a buildup of aerosol concentration. So, the researchers say, stay out of poorly ventilated rooms. Open windows and doors. One can also use air-purifying devices or virus-inactivating ultraviolet light.

Best of all: Just do as much as you can outdoors, where dilution and the sun's ultraviolet light work in your favor.

"We know outdoors is the most spectacularly effective measure, by far," says Jose-Luis Jimenez of the University of Colorado-Boulder. "Outdoors it is not impossible to get infected, but it is difficult."

The various precautions should be used in combination rather than just one at a time, researchers say. In a well ventilated environment, "6 feet (of separation) is pretty good if everybody's got a mask on" and nobody stays directly downwind of an infected person for very long, says Dr. Donald Milton of the University of Maryland School of Public Health, whose lab houses the Gesundheit II machine.

Duration of exposure is important, so there's probably not much risk from a short elevator ride while masked or being passed by a jogger on the sidewalk, experts say.

Scientists have published online tools for calculating risk of airborne spread in various settings.

At a recent meeting on aerosols, however, Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, noted that preventive steps can be a challenge in the real world. Keeping apart from other people can be difficult in homes that house multiple generations. Some old buildings have windows that were "nailed shut years ago," he said. And "we have far too many communities where they simply don't have access to clean water to wash their hands." □

Associated Press

Former shipping container maker uses them to farm



Arthur Lee, owner of MoVertical Farm, prepares to deliver his fish to market at his farm in Hong Kong's rural Yuen Long, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

he can load his container farm onto trucks and move it elsewhere with minimal disruption. Shipping container farms have taken off in countries around the world with wildly varying climates, from freezing to tropical, and on scales ranging from single containers to dozens. Many are located in urban areas where fresh produce can easily be delivered to stores or directly to consumers. While vegetables, fruits such as strawberries and freshwater fish are among the most popular, some growers have turned to raising high-protein insects as a food supplement. Controlled environment

agriculture is just one use for shipping containers, both new and old. In poorer nations, they are often used as shops with the added advantage of locking up tightly at closing time. In more affluent nations, they have been turned into tiny homes, painting studios, coffee shops, backyard sheds for hobbyists and even swimming pools. Online, containers can be bought for around \$4,000, with basic home conversions going for \$30,000 or more. □

HONG KONG (AP) — After a career making shipping containers that transport freight around the world, Arthur Lee has stayed with them in retirement, using them to raise crops and fish.

Operating on a rented 1,000-square-meter (quarter-acre) patch of wasteland in Hong Kong's rural Yuen Long, Lee's MoVertical Farm utilizes about 30 decommissioned containers, some decades old, to raise red watercress and other local vegetables hydroponically, eliminating the need for soil. A few are also used as ponds for freshwater fish.

The bounty is sold to supermarkets in the crowded city of 7.5 million that is forced to import most of its food.

As one of the world's great trading hubs, Hong Kong is a rich source of the sturdy 40-foot (12-meter) -long boxes.

Lee uses the latest technology to monitor his crops. The controlled environment inside the boxes uses a hydroponic drip system to deliver nutrients, eliminate the need for herbicides and pesticides, and reduce risks from pests, small animals and bad weather. Temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide levels, nutrient mixtures and light can all be monitored and adjusted.

And if Lee loses his lease,

SUDOKU

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Solution on Page 14

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Oduber Tel. 582 1780

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San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

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Alexie, Pilkey books among most 'challenged' of past decade

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Toni Morrison is on the list. So are John Green and Harper Lee. And John Steinbeck and Margaret Atwood. All wrote books that were among the 100 most subjected to censorship efforts over the past decade, as compiled by the American Library Association.

Sherman Alexie's prize-winning "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" came in at No. 1, followed by Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" picture book series and Jay Asher's young adult novel "Thirteen Reasons Why." Objections raised by parents and other community members have ranged from explicit language and depictions of drug use in Alexie's novel to Asher's theme of suicide.

"A lot of the books on the list also reflect a growing trend in recent years to challenge books by people of color and books from the LGBTQ community," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Examples include Morrison's "The Bluest Eye," about a Black girl raped by her father; Alex Gino's "George," about a transgender child; and Justin Richardson's and Pe-



In this Oct. 10, 2016 file photo, author and filmmaker Sherman Alexie appears at a celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day at Seattle's City Hall.

Associated Press

ter Parnell's picture book about two gay penguins, "And Tango Makes Three." The list was announced Monday as the library association prepares to mark its annual Banned Books Week.

Green's debut novel, "Looking for Alaska," was ranked fourth, with others in the top 10 including E.L. James' explicit blockbuster "50 Shades of Grey," Raina Telgemeier's graphic novel "Drama" and Lauren Myra-

cle's "Internet Girls" series. As with its yearly snapshots of most challenged books, the ALA defines a "challenge" as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness." The list is based on news reports and on accounts submitted from libraries and others in the local community, although the ALA believes many challenges go un-

reported. The association does not formally count the number of times books are actually removed from a library shelf or from a school reading list.

The decade list overall is a mixture of old standards such as Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and more recent works such as Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" and Suzanne Collins' multimillion selling

"The Hunger Games," which has been accused of being anti-family and promoting violence. Others included were Atwood's Dystopian classic "The Handmaid's Tale," Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" and J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye."

Most of the books are fiction, but the list also includes such nonfiction works as Jeanette Walls' memoir about growing up with dysfunctional parents, "The Glass Castle," and "Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl," which has faced challenges for the Jewish girl's emerging sexual feelings and physical changes as she and her family hide from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II. Frank was 15 when she was captured in 1944, and she died in a concentration camp the following year.

"There are actually two lines of objections to the Anne Frank diary," Caldwell-Stone says. "One line is about her physical attraction to a boy (Peter Schiff, whom she met in school) and there were also objections that it was inappropriate for someone 12 years old to learn about the Holocaust. It was too much of a downer. It was not uplifting to young people." □

Sculpture of John Paul II with rock, red water makes waves



Visitors to the National Museum walk past a new statue of the late pope, St. John Paul II, throwing a stone at a "Poisoned Well" just hours before its official inauguration in the museum yard in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**
Associated Press
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A new statue that depicts

the late pope St. John Paul II throwing a boulder into red water has provoked debate in his native Poland

and revived memories of a 1999 Italian sculpture that showed him crushed under a meteorite, to which the new work was intended as a counter-statement.

The statue by Polish artist Jerzy Kalina, titled "Poisoned Well," was inaugurated Thursday in front of Warsaw's National Museum to mark 100 years since the much-loved pope's birth on May 18, 1920.

Kalina, 76, said the installation in the museum's fountain relates to John Paul II's efforts in the 1980s to help free Poland from communism, which is symbolized by the red color the water has from a red fabric placed on the fountain's bottom.

The artist, the creator of many works dealing with the Catholic faith and church, said he also wanted to send a "warning against multiplying forms of red revolution" and encourage the return to the "clear well." He was apparently referring to the weakening of faith and religion in Poland.

But some critics associated the art work with blood and violence. The sculpture also drew ridicule on social media, with some commenters comparing the life-sized likeness of the canonized pope toting a rock to a cartoon figure.

The museum said the installation was Kalin's response to "La Nona Ora," Italian

artist Maurizio Cattelan's sculpture that showed the pope as "feeble old man" pinned to the ground by a huge meteorite.

Cattelan's work, which was displayed in Warsaw in 2000, was seen as disrespectful and provoked a huge outcry. □

SOLUTION SUDOKU

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7	2	9	5	1	8	6	4	3
5	8	6	4	9	2	7	1	3

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French Open: Ex-champ Halep in 2nd round, Venus Williams out

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP
Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Top-seeded Simona Halep won 10 straight games in beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-0 to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday and extend her winning streak to 15 matches. Halep won on her 29th birthday, but with minimal celebrations planned for the evening since the coronavirus pandemic means players stay locked inside the security bubble of their hotels.

"It was really special day playing on Roland Garros on my birthday," she said. "I cannot celebrate much because I have to stay in the room, so I will have a bottle of water."

Wearing thick black leggings and a long-sleeved pink jersey to combat the chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 2018 champion made a series of unforced errors and trailed 4-2.

"I felt the cold. I'm not very happy with the cold in general," Halep said. "So it was a little bit tough, I struggled."

But then she found her range, clinching the first set with a hold to love and sealing victory on her first match point when her Spanish opponent clipped a forehand wide.



Venus Williams of the U.S. plays a shot against Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020.

Halep is ranked second but seeded first at Roland Garros because defending champion Ash Barty skipped coming to Paris because of coronavirus concerns. Halep won titles on clay in Prague and Rome and her winning run — interrupted by the pandemic — dates to February.

She next faces either countrywoman Irina Camelia Begu or Jil Teichmann of Switzerland.

Halep was not alone in wrapping up warm.

Over on Court Suzanne

Lenglen, U.S. Open runner-up Victoria Azarenka experienced a vastly different temperature to Flushing Meadows only two weeks ago.

The 10th-seeded Azarenka, who beat Danka Kovinic 6-1, 6-2, fumed when match officials didn't immediately send them back to the locker room during a rain interruption.

"I am going to get frozen," she complained. "No. I'm not waiting here a couple of minutes because I'm cold. It's eight degrees,

eight degrees, I live in Florida, I am used to hot weather."

Before walking off court, Azarenka grumbled "it's ridiculous. It's too cold ... What's the point? Sitting here like ducks."

After the match, she said the conditions were risky.

"I think my opponent slipped in the third game, so I think she was also feeling a little bit uncomfortable," Azarenka said. "Does it increase the risk of players getting injured? Absolutely, I think that it does."

Associated Press

She next faces Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, who won 6-4, 6-4 against American veteran Venus Williams.

"Even on my really good shots she had a lot of amazing replies that just kind of came out of nowhere," Williams said. "Give her credit to playing an amazing match."

The 40-year-old Williams exited in the first round at Roland Garros for the third straight year and is 0-3 in Grand Slam tournaments this year following the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. Since the start of 2018, the seven-time Grand Slam champion has lost in the first round in seven of the past 11 major tournaments.

Coronavirus restrictions mean only 1,000 people are allowed per day at the tournament in western Paris.

But only 150 were there to see 11th-seeded David Goffin begin his match against Next Gen ATP Finals champion Jannik Sinner at just after 11 a.m. under the new Chatrier roof.

Goffin, a former quarterfinalist here, was the first seeded player to be knocked out when he lost 7-5, 6-0, 6-3. His countrywoman Elise Mertens - seeded 16th - fared better in beating Margarita Gasparyan 6-2, 6-3. □

Alaphilippe 1st French road race world champion since 1997

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Julian Alaphilippe soloed to victory at the road cycling world championships on Sunday, becoming France's first holder of the rainbow jersey since 1997.

Alaphilippe had time to punch the air before raising his arms above his head as he crossed the finish line on Imola's auto racing circuit to finish first in the men's road race.

Belgian rider Wout van Aert won a sprint for second, 24 seconds behind Alaphilippe, with Marc Hirschi of Switzerland third at the end of the tough course.

It was an emotional win for Alaphilippe, whose fa-

ther died in June, and the 28-year-old was in tears after he crossed the line and on the podium.

"At this moment it's really hard to say something," he said. "I want to say thank you to all my teammates who really believe in me today. Everybody did a great job. "It was a dream of my career. Sometimes, I was so close, and I was never on the podium. I came here with a lot of ambition and it's just a dream day for me." Laurent Brochard was the last French rider to win the world road race title.

The final race of the championships featured a total of 5,000 meters climbing in

258.2 kilometers (160 miles). Nine laps of a circuit started and finished on the city's auto racing track.

There were two brutal climbs on each lap — the Mazzolano and the Cima Gallisterna — and Alaphilippe attacked on the final ascent of the Gallisterna, with 12 kilometers remaining. He swiftly established a slim advantage over a world-class chase group and held them off to secure victory. The race took place exactly a week after the Tour de France ended with Tadej Pogacar becoming the youngest winner in the event's 116-year history. The 22-year-



France's Julian Alaphilippe celebrates after winning the men's elite event, at the road cycling World Championships, in Imola, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

old Slovenian led Sunday's race into the final lap, with an advantage of about 20

seconds, after attacking with just over 40 kilometers remaining. □

Steelers stay perfect, keep Texans winless in 28-21 victory

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers spent two quarters trying to hem in Deshaun Watson. It didn't take. After watching the Houston quarterback move the Texans up and down Heinz Field with remarkable ease, the Steelers blew up their meticulously put-together game plan and went back to their default setting: attack.

Might want to stick with that one. Probably for good. Slicing into the backfield relentlessly, the Steelers put the clamps on the Texans in the second half to rally for a 28-21 victory that pushed them to 3-0 for the first time in a decade. Houston managed just 51 yards and two first downs over in the final 30 minutes to fall to 0-3.

"We didn't blink, man," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said.

The Texans blinked plenty. Houston's defense wilted late, giving up a 12-play, 79-yard touchdown drive following a pick by Watson, one that ended with James Conner's 12-yard sprint that put the Steelers up 28-21 with 6:24 to go. Pittsburgh forced its third three-and-out of the second half on Houston's next possession and the Steelers then ran



Pittsburgh Steelers running back James Conner (30) stretches for the end zone to score as Houston Texans strong safety Justin Reid (20) tries to bring him down in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

off the final 4:47 that began with a 25-yard dash by Conner and ended with three anticlimatic knee downs inside the Houston 10.

"You're not going to win football doing what we do in the fourth quarter these last two weeks, giving up all of these runs," said Texans defensive end J.J. Watt, whose team let the Ravens push them around late in a lopsided loss in Week 2.

Conner finished with 109

yards rushing and added 40 yards receiving. He had plenty of help from rookie Anthony McFarland, who ran for 42 yards on six carries in his NFL debut and Benny Snell Jr., who converted a key third-and-1 on the go-ahead touchdown drive. After opening the season with two relatively drama-free wins, the Steelers needed to overcome an early 11-point deficit to stay perfect.

"We're a four-quarter

team," Conner said. "Our defense allowed us to get back in it and ... (if) you get us back on offense, we're going to get it going sooner or later."

DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN? Houston opened 0-3 in 2018 and rallied to win the AFC South. The going might be tougher this season if the defense can't find a way to hold up over 60 minutes. Then again, the schedule hasn't exactly been user friendly either consider-

ing Houston opened with road trips to Kansas City and Pittsburgh sandwiched around a home visit by the reigning Super Bowl champions.

"We've got 13 more games," said Watson, who finished 19 of 27 for 264 yards with two touchdowns and the interceptions. "So it's a lot of opportunities out there. We've got to keep building and keep pushing forward."

PASSING "IRON MIKE"

Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger threw for 237 yards and two touchdowns in his franchise-record 221st appearance, breaking the record set by Hall of Fame center Mike Webster. The 38-year-old even paid tribute to Webster by throwing a block on Houston linebacker Jacob Martin on wide receiver Diontae Johnson's 9-yard reverse in the second quarter.

Roethlisberger gave the credit for his longevity to the men who have protected him throughout the years and stressed he doesn't believe he's eclipsed Webster. "He's 'Iron Mike' for a reason," Roethlisberger said. "They're never going to call me 'Iron Ben,' I get that. ... It's not like I passed him, I feel like I joined him today." □

Jays lose finale to Orioles 7-5, will face Rays in playoffs



Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Travis Shaw, left, catches a foul ball hit by a Baltimore Orioles batter during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays are set to face the Tampa Bay Rays in the first round of the postseason after losing to the Baltimore Orioles 7-5 on

Sunday in their regular season finale.

The Orioles denied Toronto (32-28) a chance to finish second in the AL East and instead relegated the Blue

Jays to the eighth and final seed in the AL playoffs. Toronto will open a three-game series in Tampa Bay on Tuesday.

All in all, it's a vast improvement on 2019, when the Blue Jays finished a distant fourth at 67-95. They were 4-6 against Tampa Bay this season.

Renato Núñez reached base three times in his return to the lineup and Cedric Mullins hit two triples for the Orioles.

Baltimore (25-35) also improved on a last-place finish in 2019, when they went 54-108. By winning their finale, the Orioles ensured they finished one game ahead of Boston for fourth. Núñez started at DH after missing the previous three

games because of a sore knee. He walked in the first, hit an RBI double in the third, and singled and scored in the fifth. He lined out in the seventh and struck out in the ninth.

Mullins was denied a home run when Blue Jays outfielder Jonathan Davis made a sensational leaping catch for the final out of the second. Davis sprinted into the corner and stretched above the wall to rob Mullins, managing to hold on to the ball as he fell onto the warning track.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had four hits, including a two-run home run, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added a solo shot for the Blue Jays, who needed a victory and a Miami win over the Yankees

to move up in the standings. They couldn't make an early 4-1 lead hold up.

Mullins hit a two-run triple in the fourth and scored on a sacrifice fly by Austin Hays. Rio Ruiz and Pat Valaika had RBI base hits in the fifth and a third run scored on Hanser Alberto's ground out. Gurriel doubled in the second, homered in the third, singled in the sixth, and doubled again in the eighth.

Baltimore's Travis Lakins Sr. (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Cesar Valdez worked the ninth for his third save in three chances.

Toronto's Shun Yamaguchi (2-4) took the loss, allowing three runs and four hits in two innings. □