

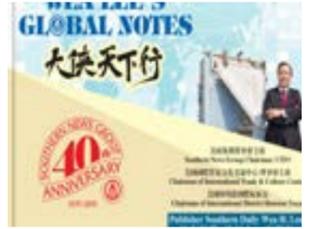


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Harris, fellow Democrats target Trump Supreme Court nominee on Obamacare



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democratic senators including vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris on Monday painted President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett as a threat to the Obamacare healthcare law during a deadly pandemic and denounced the Republican drive to approve her before the Nov. 3 U.S. election.

As the Senate Judiciary Committee began its four-day confirmation hearing for Barrett, Democrats voiced their strong opposition to the nomination even though they have little hope of derailing her nomination in the Republican-led Senate.

Barrett, a conservative appellate court judge nominated to replace the late liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, sat at a table facing the senators wearing a black face mask amid the pandemic as senators made opening statements. Barrett removed the mask when she was sworn in and delivered her own opening statement.

"I believe Americans of all backgrounds deserve an independent Supreme Court that interprets our Constitution and laws as they are written," Barrett said, reading from prepared remarks that had been made public on Sunday, with her husband and seven children sitting behind her.

Barrett's confirmation would give the court a 6-3 conservative majority that could lead to rulings rolling back abortion rights, expanding religious and gun rights, and

upholding voting restrictions, among other issues.

But it was the fate of the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), Democratic former President Barack Obama's signature domestic policy achievement that has enabled millions of Americans to obtain medical coverage, that was the focus of Harris and her fellow Democrats. Barrett has criticized a 2012 Supreme Court ruling authored by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts that upheld Obamacare.

Harris, the running mate of Trump's Democratic election opponent Joe Biden, called the confirmation process so near the election "illegitimate."

"I do believe this hearing is a clear attempt to jam through a Supreme Court nominee who will take away healthcare from millions of people during a deadly pandemic that has already killed more than 214,000 Americans," Harris said, speaking via a video link.

"A clear majority of Americans want whomever wins the election to fill this seat and my Republican colleagues know that. Yet they are deliberately defying the will of the people in their attempt to roll back the rights and protections provided under the Affordable Care Act," Harris said.

U.S. Supreme Court nominee Barrett has proven steadfastly conservative  
Factbox: Notable legal opinions of Trump's Supreme Court

nominee Barrett

Barrett could be on the Supreme Court in time to participate in a case due to be argued on Nov. 10 in which Trump and Republican-led states are seeking to invalidate Obamacare.

Barrett will face marathon questioning from senators on Tuesday and Wednesday. The hearing is a key step before a full Senate vote by the end of October on her confirmation to a lifetime job on the court. Republicans have a 53-47 Senate majority so Barrett's confirmation seems almost certain.

A pivotal Obamacare provision that would be thrown out if the court strikes the law down bars insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing medical conditions. In the hearing room, Democrats displayed posters of patients who could lose their medical coverage if Obamacare is invalidated, with senators recounting their individual stories.

Repeated Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare in Congress have fallen short, and Republicans have taken the effort to the courts.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz said the Democratic focus on healthcare and other policy issues showed they were not contesting Barrett's qualifications to serve as a justice.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who chairs the committee, opened the hearing by saying it would be "a long contentious week" but implored senators to make the proceedings respectful.

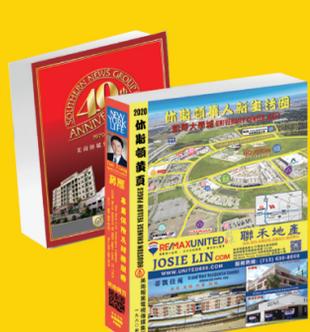
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## Winter 2020: COVID Is About To Get Worse

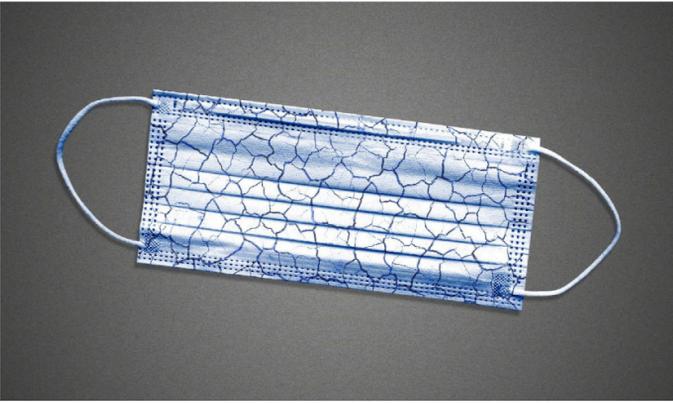


Illustration: Eniola Odetunde/Axios

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The weather is getting colder and the days are getting shorter — accelerating the economic and psychological damage of the coronavirus pandemic.

**The big picture:** During the summer, businesses took advantage of outdoor dining, exercise and shopping, and families and friends safely gathered outside and at a distance. As the season changes, much of what made the last several months bearable will vanish.

**Businesses that have made it this far** could start closing in droves.

- The pandemic has already forced at least 100,000 restaurants to close indefinitely or permanently.

- Those that have stayed open in big metros have done so by seating patrons outside. And although many cities are extending outdoor dining permits into the fall and winter, restaurateurs doubt customers will want to sit outside in the cold or the rain — unless they spend big on outdoor heaters.

- Many other businesses — from yoga studios to music schools — have been conducting classes outside all summer. Their customers may disappear in the winter, too.

**Washington's failure to deliver relief** in the form of a stimulus package is hampering the economy.

- The unemployment situation is rapid-

ly worsening. “We’re seeing a transition from short-term unemployment to a situation where a lot of these workers are not going to have a job to get back to,” says James Stock, an economist at Harvard.



- And the lack of stimulus money and unemployment insurance is pushing Americans to tighten their wallets — a troubling sign for the economy’s health.

- “The expiration of enhanced unemployment insurance benefits pulled \$667 billion in purchasing power out of the economy in August alone,” per the Economic Policy Institute.

**The upcoming holiday season** could trigger case spikes all over the country — or further devastate the hard-hit travel industry.

- “People are tired of isolation and lockdown,” Stock says. Many may use the holidays as an excuse to gather indoor in groups, which dramatically increases the likelihood of transmission and spread.

• But if people choose not to travel for the holidays, the already-battered travel industry — set to lose \$500 billion this year — will lose even more money and shed even more jobs.

**It didn't have to be this way.** With masks, social distancing and other precautions, America could have controlled the virus. But we didn't.

- “It’s technically completely feasible to have a pre-vaccine recovery, but we’ve just chosen not to do that,” says Stock. “We’ve chosen deaths and job losses over health and recovery.” (Courtesy axios.com)

### India Surpasses 7 Million Coronavirus Cases

India’s Ministry of Health confirmed Sunday another 74,383 new coronavirus cases, taking the total number of COVID-19 infections in the country past 7 million.

**Why it matters:** India is the second country to report that 7 million people have tested positive for the virus after the U.S. — which has over 7.7 million cases, per Johns Hopkins. The country of almost 1.4 billion people is expected to surpass the number of U.S. cases in the coming days.



**A medical team with a patient at a COVID-19 care facility in New Delhi, India. Photo: Mayank Makhija/Nur-Photo via Getty Images**

**Of note:** India reported 4 million cases on Sept. 4. But infection numbers have slowed since the middle of last month, when the South Asian country reported 97,894 cases — and the recovery rate has topped 85%, AP notes.

- The virus has killed fewer than 1,000 people a day for the past week and the death toll stands at 107,416 as of Sunday. A health official told AP they would have to “work aggressively” to make sure

there isn’t a surge in cases from religious festivals in the coming weeks.

**U.K. PM Boris Johnson To Announce 3-Tier Coronavirus Lockdown System** The U.K.’s hospitality industry has begun a legal challenge to prevent new local coronavirus lockdown rules for England being announced Monday from taking effect, per Reuters.

**Driving the news:** U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson was chairing a meeting “to determine the final interventions” Monday, but it’s expected to include a three-tier system alert system to tackle areas where COVID-19 is surging, the BBC notes.



**British Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaves Downing Street in London. (Photo/Neal/Getty Images)**

- Liverpool City Region is expected to be placed under level 3 restrictions that would likely see bars and other venues closed. Steve Rotheram, mayor of the northwest English region, tweeted, “no agreement has yet been reached with Government.”

- U.K. trade body the Night Time Industries Association told Reuters its legal action seeks to stop the most severe measures.

- “A judicial review would argue that no evidence supports hospitality venues having contributed to the spread” of COVID-19, the Financial Times reports.

**The big picture:** Deputy chief medical officer Jonathan Van-Tam said in a statement Sunday “we are at a tipping point similar to where we were in March.”

- 



Van-Tam noted that “an estimated 224,000 people have the virus — up from 116,000 last week” and that hospital admissions for COVID-19 are rising again, “as are intensive care admissions.”

- “Although the epidemic re-started in younger adult age groups in the last few weeks, there is clear evidence of gradual spread into older age groups in the worst affected areas. Sadly, just as night follows day, increases in deaths will now follow on in the next few weeks.” (Courtesy axios.com)



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/12/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## The Tragedy Of A Chinese Scholar

Webster University in Missouri released a statement on the death of Liu Qiang who worked as a representative at the Confucius Institute’s Beijing Language University.

According to the report, Liu served as an ex officio member of the Confucius Institute’s board. Liu died after a police search of his home.

The police and FBI searched Liu’s apartment last week amid a child pornography investigation. The police report did not include the cause of Liu’s death. The university said they have no evidence or reason to believe that Mr.

Liu’s death relates in any way to the Confucius Institute at Webster University.

Beijing University is sending a special work team to the U.S. to investigate while urging police to release Liu’s death report.

The Confucius Institute was established around the world to enhance culture and language between China and other countries. In early September, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that he was hopeful that dozens of Confucius Institute locations on U.S. campuses would be shut by the year



end. Pompeo had labeled the Institute as a foreign mission.

We hope the police and FBI will come

out with the report for Liu’s family. This is very sad at the time when the relationship between the U.S. and China is deteriorating, including the recent suspension of culture exchanges.



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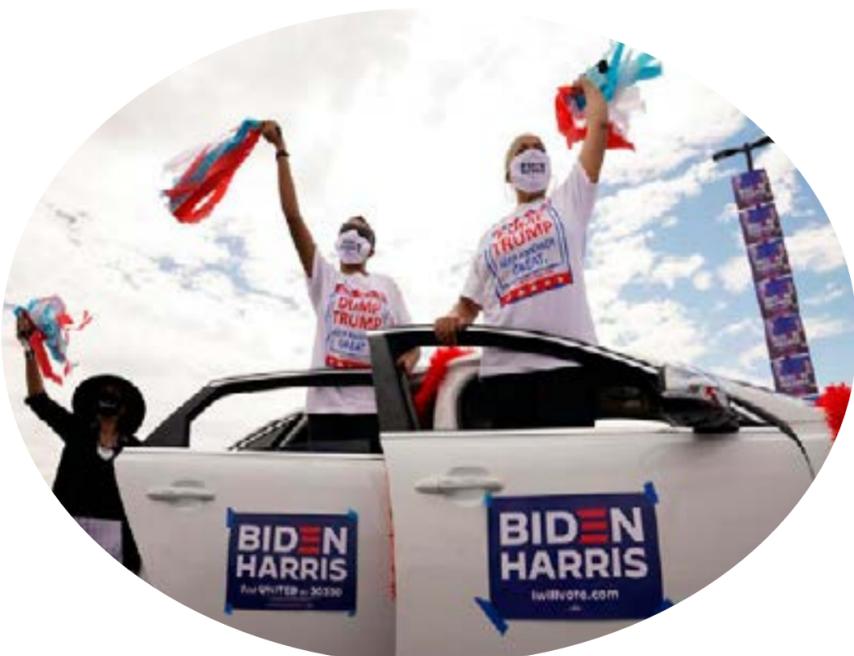
# Editor's Choice



Dancers from a local Mexican dance company wear Biden/Harris face masks during a drive-in campaign event for Democratic U.S. presidential nominee Joe Biden at the Southeast Career Technical Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates with the trophy after winning the French Open final against Serbia's Novak Djokovic. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann



Supporters cheer at a drive-in event for Joe Biden at the Southeast Career Technical Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 9. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



The Los Angeles Lakers celebrate their win over the Miami Heat after game six of the 2020 NBA Finals. Kim Klement-USA TODAY Sports



A statue from the "Torlonia Marbles" is seen during an exhibition that brings together some 96 ancient sculptures comprising of bronze, marble and alabaster statues in Rome, Italy. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



People wave North Korean flags beneath a fireworks display during commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), in Pyongyang, North Korea. KCNA via REUTERS



Texas A&M Aggies fans cheer during a scoring drive in the second quarter against the Florida Gators at Kyle Field in College Station, Texas. Scott Wachter-USA TODAY Sports



Demonstrators clash with riot police during a protest against Chile's government, in Santiago, Chile. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado

Food Shortages Are A Threat For Many College Students



More college students are uncertain about whether they will have enough to eat. (Photo/ S/EyeEm via Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

When university presidents were surveyed in spring of 2020 about what they felt were the most pressing concerns of COVID-19, college students going hungry didn't rank very high.

Just 14% of the presidents listed food or housing insecurity among their top five concerns. Granted, these academic leaders had plenty of other things to worry about.

As researchers who specialize in the study of food insecurity, we see the dropout rate as being related to a host of underlying issues. And not having enough to eat is one of them.

Data support this view. The signs of this growing problem - known as food insecurity - began to emerge when the COVID-19 epidemic was beginning to take its toll.



One spring 2020 report found that 38% of students at four-year universities were food-insecure in the previous 30 days.

College students, clearly, warrant special attention as a group. These rates of food insecurity are more than three times the rate of that in all U.S. households.

Historically, estimates of food insecurity among college students have ranged from 10% to 75%, according to 50 studies from U.S. academic institutions carried out from 2009 to before the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not just a matter of growling stomachs. This is a straight-up education and health issue.

When students don't really know if they'll

be able to get enough to eat, it can lead to a series of problems that make it harder to stay in school. For instance, it can affect academic performance and sleep quality.



Food insecurity can also result in disrupted eating patterns if there is not enough food or the variety or quality of what someone eats is low.

Previous strategies by colleges and universities to fight hunger in their student bodies have varied widely. They include campus food pantries, emergency cash assistance and nutrition education through noncredit classes or workshops.

These strategies were put to the test during the spring 2020 semester, when nearly three in five students said they had trouble meeting their own basic needs during the pandemic.

College food pantries saw big increases in demand. Others said they were getting less donated food.

Campus food pantries largely rely on local or regional food banks, which have been dealing with greater demand than they are able to meet during the pandemic.



Other potential ways to get more food are government programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP.

Yet the majority of able-bodied students are not eligible. Long-standing restrictions, like the college SNAP rule, prevent full-time students from receiving these benefits.

Such regulatory hurdles were created under the assumption that most students can rely on their parents to get enough to eat. However, college students have vastly different levels of financial support.

Under normal circumstances, many college students might rely on part-time jobs to pay for their food.

Two-thirds of the students who were employed before the pandemic said that job insecurity was a problem for them, according to the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice #RealCollege survey.

As the number of jobless young Americans remains elevated, unemployment and under-employment remain a problem.

#RealCollege In Seattle 33% OF STUDENTS ATE LESS THAN THEY FELT THEY SHOULD BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR FOOD

Jobless students face a potential double threat of less money for food and unemployment benefits cutting off their access to SNAP because the program requires most students to work at least part time.

Attempts have been made at both the federal and state levels to meet the basic food needs of college students. Lawmakers have focused on temporarily suspending eligibility requirements or expanding the criteria for participating in nutrition assistance programs.

Seventeen bills aiming to address food insecurity among college students were introduced to Congress during the 2019-2020 legislative session. However, these proposals failed to gain momentum, and the four COVID-19 stimulus bills to date have not addressed the hunger needs of college students.

Universities and colleges can make it a priority to ensure students are aware of all available campus resources and services. They can also potentially help students apply for federal assistance benefits.



Campus food pantries are not a fully effective and efficacious solution for the scale of college food insecurity, but they can be a good interim solution to increase access to food for students.

Campuses without food pantries can start one, making use of resources the College and University Food Bank Alliance provides.

Universities and colleges can also lean on one another for support. The Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs is a great example of this.

Campuses collectively working to address student food insecurity. (Courtesy theconversation.com)

American Red Cross advertisement: Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster. Your donation can help impact lives.

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