

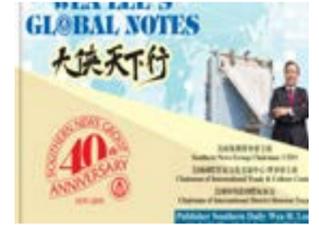


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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'We're drowning': COVID cases flood hospitals in America's heartland



(Reuters) - Dr. Drew Miller knew his patient had to be moved.

The vital signs of the 30-year-old COVID-19 victim were crashing, and Kearny County Hospital in rural Lakin, Kansas, just wasn't equipped to handle the case. Miller, Kearny's chief medical officer - who doubles as the county health officer - called around to larger hospitals in search of an ICU bed. With coronavirus cases soaring throughout Kansas, he said, he couldn't find a single one.

By the time a bed opened elsewhere the following day, the young man was near death. For a full 45 minutes, Miller and his staff performed chest compressions in a desperate attempt to save him.

Somehow, Miller said, the patient regained a pulse, and was dispatched in an ambulance to the larger facility about 25 miles away. Miller then prayed with the family, whom he knew "very well" from Lakin, a town of just a few thousand people.

"It's truly a miracle he has survived," Miller said.

After pounding big U.S. cities in the spring, COVID-19 now has engulfed rural and small-town America, seeming to seep into the country's every nook and cranny. According to Reuters' interviews with more than a dozen medical care providers and public health officials in the nation's heartland, many hospitals are severely lacking in

beds, equipment and - most critically - clinical staff, including specialists and nurses.

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are spiking nationally. But the Midwest - encompassing a dozen states between Ohio and the Dakotas - has been especially brutalized. Reported case rates are more than double that of any other region in the United States, according to the COVID Tracking Project, a volunteer-run data provider. From mid-June to mid-November, reported cases in the Midwest rose more than twentyfold.

For the week ending November 19, North Dakota reported an average of 1,769 daily new cases per 1 million residents, according to the tracking project. South Dakota recorded nearly 1,500 per million residents, Wisconsin and Nebraska around 1,200, and Kansas nearly 1,000. Even in New York's worst week in April - with business closed and panic gripping the public - the state never averaged more than 500 new cases per million people. California never topped 253.

Hospital officials in the Midwest told Reuters they're at capacity or nearly so. Most have tried to increase availability by repurposing wings or cramming multiple patients in a single room, and by asking staffers to work longer hours and more frequent shifts.

Facilities like Kearny, known as "critical access" hospitals, weren't made for this. Often sparsely funded, they mainly provide basic or emergency care to residents who live long distances away from bigger medical centers. Now, "we have to plan on being able to care for whomever comes in," said

Miller, whose specialty is family medicine.

As cases spike in many conservative states and counties, medical workers say they often face a challenge just in convincing patients and local leaders that the disease should be taken seriously and isn't a Democrat-perpetuated hoax.

Such viewpoints flow from the top. President Donald Trump often has held shoulder-to-shoulder rallies in the Midwest and elsewhere and treated masks as a matter of personal choice. Although Trump was not re-elected, about two months remain in his tenure, with little sign of change in his coronavirus strategy, even as the crisis grows.

The White House press office did not respond to a request for comment.

Some medical officials and hospital staffers find it hard to reconcile laissez-faire policies with the sickness and suffering they see.

"There's a disconnect in the community, where we're seeing people at bars and restaurants, or planning Thanksgiving dinners," said Dr. Kelly Cawcutt, an infectious disease doctor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. As health workers, she said, "we feel kind of dejected."

All told, COVID-19 has claimed more than 256,000 lives in the United States. The virus' mortality rate has dropped as doctors have learned more about the disease, and vaccines developed by Moderna Inc, Pfizer Inc and others could hit the market early next year. In the meantime, smaller hospitals say they are employing the same drugs - such as remdesivir and dexamethasone - that big-city facilities do, but don't have the same access to ICU equipment or specialized expertise.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/24/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

Doctor's Spirit, A Contribution To Society

Three pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca have produced COVID-19 drugs to rescue the world from the coronavirus pandemic

These inventions are a victory of mankind and will bring much joy to our society.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar issued a statement today, saying, "The Moderna vaccine candidate is now the second vaccine to show the potential for very high efficacy in the Phase 3 trial."

By following the regulatory timeline, December 13th is the earliest the first round of approved vaccine against the coronavirus could start to be given to select Americans that includes medical and front line workers. Later, in March or April of 2021, all citizens will be able to get the shot free of charge nationwide.

After nine months of suffering, the whole world has forty-five million confirmed cases with over one million deaths. In America, we share more than twenty-five percent of the world's total.

This is really sad and a big joke for the richest country in the world.

We are so glad President-elect Joe Biden has appointed Antony Blinken as Secretary of State to start repairing the country's international relations with the world.

Our daughter Margaret is a medical doctor who has been working at St. Luke's Hospital for many years.

The new vaccine will give her and her colleagues much deserved peace of mind. We are very proud of her contribution to the medical community and her continued service to her clients.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Thanksgiving Day is a harvest festival celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada. Thanksgiving was a holiday to express thankfulness, gratitude, and appreciation to God, family and friends for which all have been blessed of material possessions and relationships. Traditionally, it has been a time to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. This holiday has since moved away from its religious roots.

In the United States, Thanksgiving Day falls on the fourth Thursday of November. In Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October.

The precise historical origin of the holiday is disputed. Although Americans commonly believe that the first Thanksgiving happened in 1621, at Plymouth Plantation, in Massachusetts, there is strong evidence for earlier celebrations in Canada (1578) and by Spanish explorers in Florida (1565). While not the first thanksgiving of any sort on the continent, the traditional origin of modern Thanksgiving in the United States is generally regarded to be the celebration that occurred at the site of Plymouth Plantation, in Massachusetts in 1621. This celebration occurred early in the history of what would become one of the original Thirteen Colonies that later were to become the United States. This Thanksgiving was modeled after harvest festivals that were commonplace in Europe at the time.



Artist's Painting Of First Thanksgiving
According to historian Jeremy Bangs, director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, the Pilgrims may have been influenced by watching the annual services of thanksgiving for the relief of the siege of Leiden in 1574, while they were staying in Leiden.

Thanksgiving in the United States was observed on various different dates throughout history. By the mid 20th century, the final Thursday in November had become the customary day of Thanksgiving in most U.S. states. It was not until December 26, 1941, however, that President



A History Of Thanksgiving

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

Franklin D. Roosevelt, after pushing two years earlier to move the date earlier to give the country an economic boost, signed a bill into law, with congress, making Thanksgiving a national holiday and settling it to the fourth (but not final) Thursday in November.



U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Thanksgiving in Canada did not have a fixed date until the late 19th century, at which time it was typically held on

November 6. After the end of World War I, Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies were usually held during the same week. To avoid the two holidays from clashing with one another, in 1957 the Canadian Parliament proclaimed Thanksgiving to be observed on its present date.

Thanksgiving Day football games in the United States are nearly as old as the game itself. The first Thanksgiving Day football game took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Thanksgiving Day of 1869, less than two weeks after Rutgers defeated Princeton in Rutgers, New Jersey, in what is widely considered to have been the first American Football game.



High school football games played on Thanksgiving are often called

a Turkey Day Game or a Turkey Bowl (not to be confused with Turkey bowling), as Americans typically eat turkeys on Thanksgiving, although the title varies with each game. Most commonly these games are between high school football rivalries although in many cases, when poor weather requires a shorter season, the game can be the culmination of league play among a high-school league, in which the winners of this game will be the league champions for the year.

Related

President Will Spend the Thanksgiving holiday at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, FL



President Trump, with first lady Melania Trump, with members of the Coast Guard at the Lake Worth Inlet Station last Thanksgiving. (Photo/AP)
President Trump is reportedly planning to celebrate Thanksgiving once again at his members-only Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida, feasting on (if previous menus repeat) a 24-dish extravaganza of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, marshmallow sweet potatoes, red snapper, leg of lamb, grilled diver scallops, stone crab, ahi tuna

martinis, Maine lobster bisque, short ribs, beef tenderloin and seven desserts. On last year's menu: Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, a variety of baked goods, local produce and cheeses, red snapper and Florida stone crab. It will likely all be topped off by what the president calls "the most beautiful piece of chocolate cake" — available exclusively to members (\$200,000 initiation fee) and guests.



President Donald Trump passes out sandwiches to Coast Guard members beside first lady Melania Trump during a visit to Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet in Riviera Beach, Fla., on Thanksgiving.

Trump Refuses to Pardon White House Turkey After Accusing It of Working for Soros

WASHINGTON —In a startling break with Thanksgiving tradition, Donald J. Trump refused to pardon the White House turkey after claiming that it was working as a secret operative of the billionaire

George Soros. A group of fourth graders from Bethesda, Maryland, who had gathered on the White House lawn for the annual turkey-pardoning ceremony appeared unprepared for the anti-Soros outburst that Trump unleashed on the Thanksgiving bird.



"That turkey was sent by Soros to spy on me," Trump said, angrily turning on the fowl. "A lot of people are saying this." While the oblivious turkey pecked desultorily at the ground, an increasingly enraged Trump spewed a stream of conspiracy theories linking the feathered animal to global elites, election fraud in Florida, and Jim Acosta.



This picture taken Nov. 19, 2015, in Modesto, Calif., shows a turkey selected for a pardon from the Thanksgiving dinner table by President Obama. A class of fifth grade students from nearby Eisenhut Elementary School cheered for their favorite as Foster Farms staffers picked the prized bird. The lucky turkey was selected on Thursday for a trip to the White House, where President Obama will pardon it in an annual tradition.

Trump attempted to lead the fourth-grade class in a chant of "Lock It Up," apparently directed at the Thanksgiving delicacy, but the students slowly backed away from him in silence.

Tracy Klugian, one of the children who witnessed Trump's meltdown, said that he found it "sad."

"I get that he's upset about Mueller and the midterms, but he shouldn't take it out on a turkey," he said. (Courtesy <https://www.newyorker.com/humor>)

Editor's Choice



An Ethiopian woman who fled the ongoing fighting in Tigray region carries her child near the Setit river on the Sudan-Ethiopia border in Hamdayet village in eastern Kassala state, Sudan, November 22, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah



Stephanie Anderson and her companion, Gypsy, of Los Angeles, wait to depart Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday during the coronavirus pandemic, in Atlanta, Georgia, November 23. REUTERS/Chris Aluka...



Mariachis play their instruments as they pay homage to Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians, during the annual pilgrimage as the coronavirus outbreak continues, in Mexico City, Mexico, November 22. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Rapper Snoop Dogg helps give out a frozen turkey at the City of Inglewood's annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway during the coronavirus outbreak in Inglewood, California, November 23. REUTERS/Mike Blake



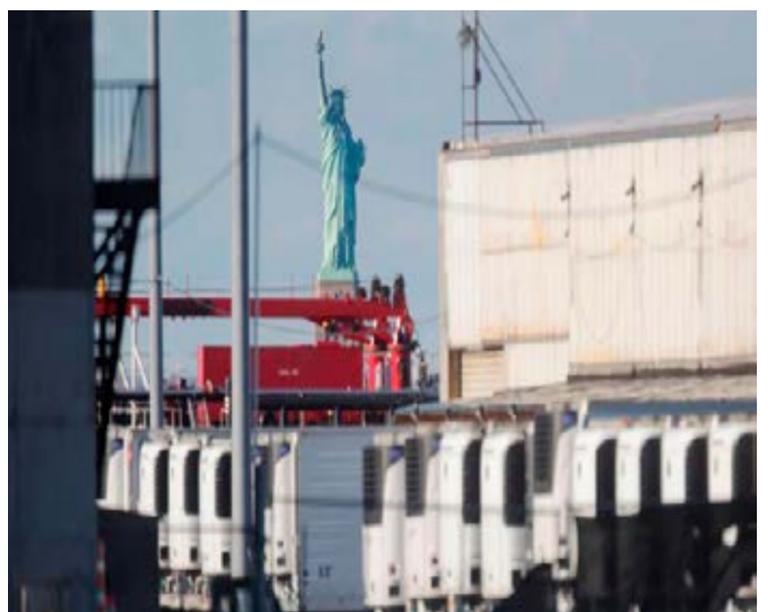
First lady Melania Trump departs after welcoming the arrival of the White House Christmas Tree outside the White House in Washington, November 23. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Scott Fujii, 34, is given a 24-hour rapid coronavirus test by nurse Caren Williams at Tom Bradley international terminal at LAX airport so he can travel to Hawaii to see family in Los Angeles, California, November 23. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson



Pro-democracy activists Ivan Lam and Joshua Wong arrive at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre by prison van after pleading guilty to charges of organizing and inciting an unauthorized assembly near the police headquarters during last year's anti-government...



Refrigerated trailers store bodies of the deceased at a temporary morgue, during the COVID-19 pandemic in Brooklyn, New York City, November 23. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

For The First Time In Its 71-Year History. There Won't Be A Giant Turkey Parading Down The Streets Of Houston On Thanksgiving

Houston Cancels Thanksgiving Parade For The First Time Ever As COVID-19 Pandemic Continues



There will be no Tom Turkey float this year, But there will be meals and masks. (Photo/Houston Chronicle / M. Phillip/Staff Photographer)

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

The City of Houston has canceled the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. But there will still be a celebration (and likely lots and lots of turkey). Instead of the parade, H-E-B and the City handed out thousands of Thanksgiving meals and masks at NRG Stadium the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Up to 5,000 cars will be able to get a box to help make their own holiday meal at home.

Due to the recent spike in coronavirus cases, Mayor Turner has been urging Houstonians to reimagine the holidays with family. Just last month, he told Houstonians that Halloween wasn't canceled, but to re-envision the holiday in a much safer way. In a press conference last Monday, Turner and Houston's leading health expert Dr. David Persee spoke on

how Houstonians should proceed with Thanksgiving festivities. According to Turner, the COVID-19 positivity rate in the city is up almost 3 percent. The positivity rate currently sits at 7.9 percent. Just five weeks ago, the rate was at 5 percent.



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner held a press conference at City Hall

on Nov. 9. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tells Houstonians to limit holiday gatherings to household members this year. (Photo/Elizabeth Conley, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer)

"Don't invite COVID for Thanksgiving dinner," Turner said. The mayor went on to say that having large gatherings with people who don't live in your household could cause another spike in positive coronavirus cases.

"This virus thrives on gatherings and will take advantage of holiday festivities to sicken our loved ones and further spread through our community," Turner said.

While we wait for a vaccine, there have been many ideas on how to enjoy the upcoming holiday without putting others at risk. The Harris County COVID-19 Threat Level System is currently at level 1 red. Harris County residents are strongly urged to limit their outings and contact with others. Still want your parade fix? The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will air at 9 a.m. CT on Thanksgiving Day. The amended parade will be shortened to one city block for broadcast purposes, but still feature a large roster of talented musicians and performances.

Related

City Of Houston Will Also Host Its 42nd Annual Superfeast Event In Lieu Of The Annual Thanksgiving Parade

The city also is hosting its 42nd Annual Superfeast event on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2020, and on Christmas Eve Day, Thursday December 24, 2020.



Members of the Westbury High School marching band perform during the

70th Annual H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade downtown Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, in Houston. Photo: Melissa Phillip, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Monday the city's annual Thanksgiving parade is canceled, and he urged residents to avoid large gatherings of family or friends over the holiday as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations trend upward. It marks the first time in the parade's 71-year history it has been canceled. "The increasing positivity rate and increasing hospitalizations are clearly a dangerous trend in the wrong direction, and we want to reverse course," Turner said. Houston's positivity rate is 7.9 percent, up from a low of 5 percent earlier this fall.



The city also is hosting its 42nd Annual Superfeast event, which will disburse larger food baskets — with as much as 60 to 80 pounds of food — to families from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. The event will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, though the walk-up and drive-up locations to retrieve the food will be outdoors.



City Wide Club, a nonprofit, and Houston First Corp., the city's convention agency, run that event.



HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

It's simple, just walk-up or drive-up and a caring Super Feast Volunteer will hand deliver these items to you

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION: Call (713) 752-CLUB (2582) or (866) 510-CLUB (2582)

(Courtesy www.houstonchronicle.com and the City Wide Club)

FREE! Join us for some holiday fun!

Winter Wonderland Food Fair!

Saturday, December 7th, 2019
10:00am-1:00pm

Alief SPARK Park & Nature Center
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Houston TX 77072

- Grab some fresh produce from the Houston Food Bank and WHAM while supplies last
- Community Resources
- Holiday Arts and Crafts
- Pictures with Santa
- Popcorn and Hot Chocolate
- Raffle prizes, Moonwalk, Music, Snow and more!

Partners: Houston Food Bank, WHAM, Hope Foundation for Mental Health, HOPE CLINIC

This activity is not related to or sponsored by the Alief Independent School District.

Kelsey-Seybold is now scheduling **VIRTUAL** and **IN-PERSON** appointments!

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- The Woodlands Clinic
- Kingwood Clinic

Guiying Hu, M.D.
Hematology/Oncology
Mandarin

- Berthelsen Main Campus
- Spring Medical and Diagnostic Center

Jeanie Ling, M.D.
Ophthalmology
Ophthalmic Surgery
Glaucoma Specialist
Mandarin

- Berthelsen Main Campus
- Tanglewood Clinic

Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin

- Meyerland Plaza Clinic

Frank Hua, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Mandarin

- Spring Medical and Diagnostic Center

John Tam, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Cantonese and Mandarin

- Fort Bend Medical and Diagnostic Center

Yee-Ru (Amy) Chen, D.O.
Family Medicine
Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taiwanese

- Downtown at The Shops at 4 Houston Center

Kuangzoo Huang, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin

- Meyerland Plaza Clinic

Wayne Tie, M.D.
Ophthalmology
Mandarin

- Berthelsen Main Campus
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Whether you're new to Kelsey-Seybold or a current patient, you have a choice of where you can safely get care. Call our **24/7** Contact Center at **713-442-0000** to schedule a same-day or next-day virtual **Video Visit** or, for non-respiratory illnesses, an **in-person appointment** at a Kelsey-Seybold Clinic near you.

