

Tuesday Election Day - 11.03.20

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Videos: 'Life-Threatening' Hurricane Eta Makes Landfall in Nicaragua as Category 4 Cyclone by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Hurricane Eta made landfall Tuesday along Nicaragua's coastline as a Category 4 storm, pummeling much of Central America with torrential rainfall that forecasters say will cause massive flooding and increased chances of landslides.

The [latest update](#) from the US' National Hurricane Center (NHC) indicates that the "extremely dangerous" hurricane made landfall some 15 miles south of Nicaragua's Puerto Cabezas, a municipality that saw dozens killed when Hurricane Felix struck the area in 2007.

The storm struck the Nicaraguan coastline with maximum sustained wind speeds of 140 mph after moving inland at a pace of 5 mph. [Updated models suggest](#) that the southern portion of Florida could be affected by Eta sometime Sunday.

At present, officials believe that the storm's eye will strike northern portions of Nicaragua through Wednesday morning before Eta turns its attention to Honduras, wreaking havoc across central portions of that country. The cyclone's hurricane-force winds extend some 25 miles from the storm's eye, whereas tropical storm-force winds reach out some 115 miles.

The NHC has indicated that much of Nicaragua and Honduras will see between 15 and 25 inches of rain, with isolated areas getting up to 35 inches.

"This rainfall will lead to catastrophic, life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding, along with landslides in areas of higher terrain of Central America," reads the agency's bulletin.

Guatemala, Belize, Panama and Costa Rica are forecasted to be hit with as much as 25 inches of rain.

"A dangerous storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 14 to 21 feet above normal tide levels in areas of onshore winds along the coast of Nicaragua within the hurricane warning area, and 3 to 5 feet above normal tide levels along the coast of Honduras within the tropical storm warning area," the advisory adds.

Earlier, video showed Eta's outer bands reached the coastline, pulling off the roofs of several homes and establishments on top of pouring down several inches of rain and swelling local waterways.

"We're really afraid, there are fallen poles, there's flooding, roofs torn off, some of the zinc on my house fell off," Carmen Enriquez, a resident of Puerto Cabezas, [told Reuters](#). "We spent the whole night up worrying, it hasn't stopped raining, and they say it's just starting."

Ahead of the storm's arrival, the governments of both Nicaragua and Honduras [declared red alerts](#), ordering thousands of residents living in coastal areas to evacuate from their homes as a precaution.

While each storm's impact tends to be unique, Eta's incoming attack on Central America has stirred memories of Hurricane Mitch's 1998 landfall in Honduras. Although Mitch reached

Category 5 status and later downgraded into a Category 1 storm, the cyclone dropped catastrophic amounts of rainfall and flooded much of the mountainous terrain. An [archived report](#) from the US' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) notes that Mitch "devastated" the country's infrastructure, washing away "whole villages" and destroying an estimated 70% to 80% of transportation infrastructure. The NOAA's estimates state Hurricane Mitch killed some 11,000 people, 6,500 of whom died in Honduras alone. As Eta moves inland in Nicaragua, forecasters are monitoring whether the storm will later reemerge in the Caribbean in the next couple of days.

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Curious Pup Enjoys Game of Pool Video Club

Lava, a cuddly border collie from Calgary in Alberta, Canada, recently demonstrated that dogs also enjoy watching the ins and outs involved in a game of pool - even if it means occasionally having to duck from the balls.

Video captured by Katerina Jansen, Lava's mom, shows the silly pup running around the table as Jansen's husband Chris expertly knocks each ball into a pocket.

"[Lava] wishes the table was a little shorter," the pup's mom commented to video licensor Storyful.

Watch out, folks, Lava might be the next pool champion.

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Declassified Mueller Docs Reveal DoJ Couldn't Prove WikiLeaks Got DNC Emails From by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

According to newly declassified documents from the Mueller investigation, the US Department of Justice couldn't find sufficient evidence to prove WikiLeaks or its co-founder, Julian Assange, were involved in hacking the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) emails. The revelation undermines yet another major part of the Russiagate narrative.

A new version of the 448-page Russiagate investigation report delivered by former special counsel Robert Mueller in March 2019 has shed light on the DoJ's investigation of WikiLeaks, Assange and former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone, as well as the trio's possible connection to the hacking of emails from the DNC in 2016.

[The new version includes 14 newly declassified pages](#), showing the DoJ wanted to charge one of the three entities as co-conspirators alongside the 12 Russian nationals Mueller filed indictments against in 2018, accusing them of being military intelligence agents behind the moniker "Guccifer 2.0."

The declassified pages were the product of a Freedom of Information Act [request filed by BuzzFeed News last month](#) after US President Donald Trump [attempted to force the DoJ to declassify all documents](#) related to the Russiagate probe.

“The Office determined, however, that it did not have admissible evidence that was probably sufficient to obtain and sustain a Section 1030 conspiracy conviction of WikiLeaks, Assange, or Stone,” Mueller’s team wrote. The report goes on to note that they regarded WikiLeaks as equivalent to a “fence,” or someone who finds buyers for stolen goods, exploring the various legal ramifications of that framing, but again concluded they had no basis for bringing charges forward.

Ultimately, Mueller’s conclusion was based on an inability to prove any of the three knew the material had been hacked or that hacks were continuing. Of course, [Stone was later revealed to have had no involvement](#) in the dissemination of the DNC emails at all, despite his plentiful bluster about being in communication with Assange about it over the summer of 2016.

Mueller’s team also looked at whether or not WikiLeaks publishing the roughly 50,000 DNC emails over the summer and fall of 2016 violated campaign finance laws because it materially benefited Trump’s election campaign. However, they again found insufficient evidence to bring charges on those grounds.

The admission deals [yet another crushing blow to the Russiagate narrative](#) and undermines one of the key factors in turning the corporate media against WikiLeaks and Assange, who now stands charged with 18 counts related to the publishing of US government materials stolen by former US Army analyst Chelsea Manning that revealed a US war crimes cover-up.

In a January 3, 2017, interview with Sean Hannity, [Assange told the Fox News host WikiLeaks’ source for the emails](#) “is not the Russian government and it is not a state party.” The emails aired the dirty laundry of the Democratic Party’s central leadership, revealing a party deeply indebted to its then-presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, who received ample help rising to that position from the DNC itself.

Moreover, former senior US intelligence officials have cast serious doubts on the idea the DNC server was hacked by anyone. Bill Binney, a cryptographer and [former technical director at the US National Security Agency \(NSA\), told Sputnik](#) in August that all evidence pointed to the emails being physically transported to WikiLeaks on a disk or thumb drive, not by internet download, meaning they were stolen by someone inside the DNC and not hacked from without. In fact, the incident was more likely linked to [US intelligence officials than Russian ones, Binney said](#).

Even in his report, Mueller remains uncertain the Russian GRU hacked the DNC, [only saying it “appears” it did so](#).

This has not stopped the corporate media from building a case against Assange and WikiLeaks for Mueller. As accusations and indictments rolled out of his investigation, [mainstream outlets like the Associated Press](#), Newsweek and the [Washington Post steadily turned against](#) an organization that had provided them with years of blockbuster headlines, [turning Assange from a hero into a villain](#) who had supposedly helped Russian President Vladimir Putin help Trump steal the election.

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Mystery Surrounds Possible Photo of US Air Force's New RQ-180 High-Altitude Stealth Drone
[Morgan Artyukhina](#)

A photo has emerged purporting to show the US Air Force's secretive, new high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) stealth drone, the RQ-180, in the skies over southern California. However, since the Pentagon has never admitted the drone exists, it's hard to say if this is it. The mystery began when photographer and actor Rob Kolinsky posted an image [on his Instagram account showing a flying-wing-configured aircraft](#) painted in bright white, soaring high over his house last month. Kolinsky asked for a hand in identifying the aircraft, and [Aviation Week's Guy Norris obliged](#), writing in the outlet earlier this week that the plane was an RQ-180. Since the story's publication, Kolinsky has removed the photo from his account. HALE aircraft, also called "atmospheric satellites," [are built to loiter at altitudes in excess of 65,000 feet](#) - the bottom of the stratosphere - for days on end. Some, which sport solar panels atop their wings, may never have to land except for maintenance.

While the Air Force has never admitted the RQ-180 exists, Aviation Week has long been on the trail of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), writing about its existence as early as 2013 and [reporting last year the Air Force had at least seven RQ-180s](#). According to the outlet, the drones fly out of Beale Air Force Base, north of Sacramento, California, and [aerial photographs of the base show new hangar construction](#) that could back up those reports.

However, Kolinsky's photo was snapped near Edwards AFB, more than 350 miles south of Beale, in the deserts of southern California. Along with Aviation Week, [The Drive's The War Zone has noted it's possible](#) some RQ-180 operations have been moved to Edwards recently, but that of course remains unconfirmed.

Norris did note the RQ-180 has a couple of nicknames around Edwards, including the "Great White Bat" and "Shikaka," both references to [a fictional sacred white bat](#) in the 1995 American comedy film "Ace Ventura 2: When Nature Calls."

In fact, The War Zone raises a far more likely explanation: the aircraft photographed isn't an RQ-180 at all, but rather a P-175 Polecat - another flying-wing UAV that crashed in 2006, supposedly ending the program.

An image of the P-175 Polecat, a high-altitude unmanned aircraft demonstrator built by Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works. Its one flying model crashed in 2006.

[As War Zone editor Tyler Rogoway explained on Monday](#), the aircraft is a "dead ringer" for a Polecat, right down to its engine configuration, paint scheme and the Air Force's willingness to fly the declassified aircraft during the day, when locals like Kolinsky could see and photograph it. Even though the one flyable Polecat crashed, other partial models were known to exist, and it's possible one or more of them was completed and is now being used in tests.

Until the Air Force declassifies information about the RQ-180, we can't be sure, but whatever was spotted over Edwards last month was definitely experimental.

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National Guard Units Activated in 16 US States Ahead of Possible Post-Election Unrest
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

In more than a dozen US states, governors have activated some of their National Guard units in case of large-scale civil unrest in the aftermath of the Tuesday presidential election.

According to [a rolling count by the Military Times](#), more than 3,600 national guardsmen across the US have been activated in conjunction with the US elections on Tuesday, with duties ranging from cybersecurity to preparing to put down unrest if the situation warrants it.

In Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington state, Wisconsin and Wyoming, guardsmen have been activated, and they stand ready to be activated in many other places, including Washington, DC.

"We are not on any standby status; however, we continue to stand ready should a request [be] approved," Capt. Tinashe Machona, a spokesperson for the DC Guard, [told Military.com on Tuesday](#). The entire 1,800-person guard [was previously activated in June](#) alongside thousands of federal guardsmen sent by US President Donald Trump to crush militant protests against police violence and white supremacy in the nation's capital.

The White House, too, is preparing for violence by [re-erecting a "non-scalable" fence around the grounds](#) of the entire presidential mansion like that put up in June.

In some states, the guardsmen are in plain clothes and stationed at polling stations to fill gaps in election workers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; in others, they are performing cybersecurity functions. However, in Pennsylvania, the guard had already been activated to deal with mass protests in Philadelphia touched off last week by the police killing of Walter Wallace, a 27-year-old mentally ill Black man who was shot by city police when he reportedly approached them with a knife.

However, some of the mobilizations were admittedly made purely for precaution's sake.

"At this time we are aware of no specific or credible threats to election sites in Massachusetts," Massachusetts State Police [Col. Christopher Mason said in a Monday news release](#) announcing Governor Charlie Baker's readying of 1,000 state guardsmen to be called up.

"We continue to monitor all available intelligence and will maintain an enhanced operational posture for Election Day and beyond, and will be prepared to assist in any situations that arise in order to protect public safety and the rights of all our citizens," Mason added.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown [declared a two-day state of emergency on Monday](#), creating a unified command of state troopers, sheriff's deputies and city police in the state's largest city of Portland, and putting the state National Guard on a 48-hour standby.

"Violence is never the answer," [she said at a Monday news conference](#). "Voter intimidation and political violence will not be tolerated. Not from the left, not from the right, not from the center."

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Videos: Crowds Gather Outside Fortified White House Ahead of Anticipated Election Results by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Preliminary results from the US national elections won't begin to be announced for several hours, but a crowd has already gathered outside the White House in Washington, DC, which has been fortified ahead of the vote.

Performers danced, speakers boomed with music, and preachers spread the religious word at Black Lives Matter Plaza on the District of Columbia's 16th Street NW on Tuesday afternoon as the protest site began to rapidly fill with demonstrators.

A large section of downtown DC has been [closed to vehicular traffic for two days](#) amid widespread expectation of mass demonstrations. Likewise, the White House has erected ["non-scalable" steel fences around the entire perimeter](#) similar to those put up during the militant demonstrations that erupted in May and June, and some area shops have boarded up their windows.

The fence around Lafayette Park, which sits between the White House and Black Lives Matter Plaza, has remained intact since those protests, erected in the days following US President Donald Trump's [violent eviction of peaceful protesters from the public park](#).

[According to the New York Times, the first polls](#) in the US' Eastern Time Zone will begin closing at 6 p.m. local time, while some polls on the nation's Pacific coast, three hours behind the Atlantic side, won't close until 11 p.m. local time - by which time it will be 2 a.m. in Washington, DC.

While thousands of national guardsmen [have been mobilized or placed on standby across the country](#) over fears of violence during or after the election, there have been no specific threats in the District of Columbia, and the city's guardsmen have not yet been mobilized, local authorities have said.

"We are not on any standby status; however, we continue to stand ready should a request [be] approved," Capt. Tinashe Machona, a spokesperson for the DC Guard, [told Military.com on Tuesday](#).

"The city has indicated that they are not expecting to have any protest or violence or any kind of incidents in the city," Leona Agouritis, the executive director of the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District that operates much of the capital city's downtown area, including Black Lives Matter Plaza, [told WTOP last week](#).

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US Cyber Command, NSA Undertook Ops Against Iran Prior to US Election - Report

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The head of US Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) and the National Security Agency (NSA) told reporters Tuesday the US had carried out cyber ops against Iran to ensure it did not interfere with the US elections.

US Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, who heads both CYBERCOM and the NSA, told reporters Tuesday he was "very confident in actions" taken against Iran "over the past several weeks and the past several months to make sure that they're not going to interfere in our elections," [the Washington Post reported](#).

However, the cyber chief gave no specific information about the operations.

Nakasone said that while they were watching for interference in the US election, "I just don't see the levels that we had seen" in 2018. During that election, too, the wild claims about planned interference by Russia failed to materialize, [leaving the media strangely silent](#) during the November day of decision.

About two weeks before the 2020 election, US Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe and FBI Director Christopher Wray [claimed that Russia and Iran had "taken specific actions](#) to influence public opinion relating to [US] elections."

Among those claims were that the two nations had independently obtained US voter registration information, and that Iran had emailed threatening messages to voters in several US states posing as the right-wing gang Proud Boys and warning would-be voters for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden to support US President Donald Trump instead. Ratcliffe also claimed Iran was behind a video that "implies that individuals could cast fraudulent ballots, even from overseas," which he said was an attempt to discredit the election.

However, Ratcliffe's conclusions came from metadata that pointed to the use of servers in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Estonia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, but not Iran, [according to the Washington Post](#).

Further, the Iranian government [has repeatedly denied it has any interest in swaying](#) the US election, but if it did, it's unclear why it would wish to help Trump win, when his administration is responsible for torpedoing a delicate detente decades in the making and implementing a crushing new "maximum pressure" campaign that has wrecked Iran's economy and [caused many Iranians to die of COVID-19 and other diseases](#) that sanctions prevent the buying of medicines for.

The day after Ratcliffe and Wray's announcements, [the US Treasury sanctioned five Iranian entities it accused](#) of being "components of the Government of Iran, disguised as news organizations or media outlets" and attempting to interfere in the US elections.

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\$600 Million Sale of Four MQ-9 Reaper Drones to Taiwan Approved by US State Department
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US State Department has approved a potential sale of four MQ-9B Reaper drones and associated hardware to Taiwan, passing the deal on to Congress for approval. The proposed \$600 million deal is just the latest in billions of dollars in weapons supplied to Taipei by the Trump administration.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), the Pentagon's agency for handling the Foreign Military Sales program, [announced on Tuesday the State Department had approved](#) the potential \$600 million deal.

According to DSCA, the sale would include four "weapons-ready" Reaper drones and four ground control stations for flying them - two mobile, two fixed - as well as a slew of related spare parts and other equipment. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is built by General Atomics. "The capability is a deterrent to regional threats and will strengthen the recipient's self-defense. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces," the DSCA said. "The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region."

However, the deal is not final until approved by lawmakers in both Washington and Taipei. When reports of the potential deal first emerged in August, [Beijing was furious, denouncing the deal as a violation](#) of the One-China Principle. China regards Taiwan as a province in rebellion and US aid to Taipei as interference in China's internal affairs. The US switched its recognition of the legitimate Chinese government over from Taiwan to China in 1978, acknowledging the People's Republic of China had defeated the older Republic of China and won the civil war in 1949.

The news also comes on the heels of a set of US Air Force MQ-9 operators being spotted wearing unit patches that [showed a Reaper drone with a grim reaper](#) emblazoned on the wing soaring over a map of China. [The editorial staff of the Global Times](#), a paper operated by the Communist Party of China, blasted the move as "an extremely arrogant provocation," but noted that Chinese air defenses can easily down the UAVs.

While the government in Taipei has historically maintained its legitimacy as the Chinese government dating back to 1912, the coming to power of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing Wen in 2016 signaled a shift in attitude, with her faction of the Democratic Progressive Party being more favorable to declaring Taiwan is an independent nation from China. [Beijing has promised if this happens, there will be war.](#)

The US has put forward several huge weapons deals with Taiwan in recent months, including [\\$1 billion in long-range cruise missiles](#), \$436 million in mobile rocket artillery and associated weapons, [\\$2.37 billion in specialized rocket artillery](#) that fires anti-ship missiles and [\\$8 billion in F-16V "Viper"](#) advanced interceptor aircraft.

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US Senate Majority Leader McConnell Projected to Win Reelection in Kentucky
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

According to reports, US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is projected to have been reelected to his seat representing Kentucky in the national legislature's upper house. McConnell, who leads Republicans in the US Senate, [is projected to have won another six-year term in office](#), judging by a partial count of ballots after polls closed in Kentucky on Tuesday night.

The 78-year-old has sat in the US Senate since 1984 and led Republicans in the chamber since 2006. This will be his seventh term as a senator.

McConnell faced a tough challenge for his seat from Democrat Amy McGrath, a former US Marine Corps fighter pilot [who raised an eye-popping \\$90 million](#) in her campaign, compared to \$57.2 million raised by McConnell.

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US Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham Fights Off Well-Funded Rival in South Carolina Race by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham has been reelected to the US Senate from the state of South Carolina.

Graham has won a fourth six-year term in the US Senate in the 2020 elections, [according to analysts with the Associated Press](#).

News of his victory comes shortly after [Sen. Mitch McConnell \(R-KY\), who leads Republicans in the Senate](#), was also declared to be the winner of his reelection race.

Like McConnell, Graham faced a tough opponent with deep pockets as Democrats rallied to try and oust one of the Senate's most powerful conservatives.

Democrat Jaime Harrison raised a record-breaking \$57 million in campaign funds during the final quarter prior to the election, [according to the New York Times](#), which reported his average donation was \$37. Overall, Harrison raised more than \$100 million during the race. However, before it was all over, [Graham said he had also solicited more than \\$100 million](#), taking in [\\$1 million a day in the first two weeks of October](#).

"This is the biggest challenge that I have ever faced," Graham told AP on Tuesday evening. [Once a fierce critic of US President Donald Trump](#), Graham fell in behind the Republican president after his 2017 inauguration, even if [Trump hasn't quite repaid him the favor](#).

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Democrats to Retain Control of US House, NBC News Projects by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

NBC News has predicted the Democrats will retain their majority in the US House of Representatives through the 2020 elections.

As vote totals continued to roll in on Tuesday evening, [NBC felt confident predicting the Democratic Party](#) would retain its hold on the 435-member House of Representatives. However, the Republican-controlled Senate has remained stagnant, with Democrats picking up one seat in Colorado but losing another in Alabama.

Going into the election, Democrats held 232 of the 435 seats in the House, giving them a 35-seat lead over the Republicans. Incumbency rates for the legislative chamber often top 90%, [according to data compiled by Open Secrets](#).

Delegates to the House are elected for two-year terms, and all 435 seats are contested during each election. The seats are apportioned by population.

While the power to approve items such as treaties and judges belongs to the legislature's upper chamber, the US Senate, the House gets some unique powers of its own: for example, in the event the presidential election fails to produce a clear winner in the Electoral College, the House of Representatives itself elects the next president, according to the 12th Amendment to the US Constitution.

In the event the president or another elected official is suspected of having committed a crime, as happened in 2019, the House acts as a "grand jury" of sorts, gathering evidence to make a case and then impeaching the official if they feel it necessary. The Senate then handles the trial itself as several House members form the prosecution.

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'Palm Beach is Going to Be Very Happy': Jeffrey Epstein's Florida Mansion Set for Demolition

The Florida mansion where convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein sexually abused underage girls is set to be demolished by a real estate developer.

The local developer, Todd Michael Glaser, confirmed to the [Wall Street Journal](#) for a Monday article that he signed a contract with Epstein's estate to buy the deceased financier's Palm Beach property. The property went on the market in July for \$21.995 million.

According to Glaser, he plans to tear down the property and replace it with a 14,000-square-foot home once the sale wraps in December. "Palm Beach is going to be very happy that it's gone," he told the outlet, referring to Epstein's home.

Glaser declined to reveal what he and his partners are paying for the house, but did indicate that they received a discount.

A person familiar with the deal told the Journal that the price of the compound, which is located about a mile from US President Donald Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club, was close to roughly \$18 million.

Records obtained by the Journal show that Epstein bought the six-bedroom property, with a waterfront view, for \$2.5 million in 1990. Prosecutors say that the property was an integral part of Epstein's sex-trafficking schemes, as it is believed he lured underage girls to the property to engage in sexual acts with them.

In July, the front gate of the estate was spraypainted with the words, "[Gone but not forgiven.](#)" In August 2019, the 66-year-old financier was found dead in his cell at New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC). The death was later ruled a suicide after officials determined that Epstein had apparently hanged himself.

At the time, Epstein was awaiting trial on charges of sex trafficking of minors after his bail appeal was declined. In mid-July, Epstein was put on suicide watch after an unsuccessful attempt, but was reportedly taken off a suicide watch one week later.

Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's former girlfriend and alleged accomplice, is [currently in jail as she awaits her trial](#), which is scheduled to start in July. Maxwell has not pleaded guilty to charges claiming she recruits three girls for Epstein in the mid-1990s for Epstein to abuse.

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Gentoo Penguins Should Be Divided Into Four Species, Scientists Say

Gentoo penguins should be classified as four separate species instead of one, according to scientists at the Milner Centre for Evolution at the UK's University of Bath.

Scientists analyzed the genetic and physical characteristics of gentoo penguin populations around the Southern Hemisphere, namely in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean, the South Shetland Islands in the Antarctic and the Kerguelen Islands in the Indian Ocean, [a news release by the University of Bath explains](#).

The researchers concluded that Gentoo penguins, which are currently divided into two subspecies, *P. p. ellsworthi* and *P. p. Papua*, should instead be separated into four different species.

The researchers suggest that the two new species be named *P. poncetii*, after the Australian seabird conservationist Sally Poncet, and *P. taeniata*, to recognize a former proposal for this name dating to the 1920s, the release noted.

The study, published in *Ecology and Evolution*, used genome data to better understand the relationships between the different populations. The data showed clear physical and genetic differences between the four populations.

"For the first time, we've shown that these penguins are not only genetically distinct, but that they are also physically different too," lead author Jane Younger said in the release.

"Gentoo penguins tend to stick close to their home colonies, and over hundreds of thousands of years have become geographically isolated from each other to the point where they don't interbreed with each other, even though they could easily swim the distance that separates them," she added, also noting that the four species the researchers suggest for classifying the birds live in different areas.

"The four species we propose live in quite different latitudes - for example *P. ellsworthi* lives on the Antarctic continent whereas *P. poncetii*, *P. taeniata* and *P. papua* live further north where conditions are milder, and so it's not that surprising that they have evolved to adapt to their different habitats," she explained.

Ph.D. student Josh Tyler, who was also involved in the study, noted that while the penguins look similar, there are notable differences in their skeletons.

"They look very similar to the untrained eye, but when we measured their skeletons we found statistical differences in the lengths of their bones and the sizes and shape of their beaks," he noted.

"It's a similar story to giraffes, which were revealed in 2016 to be [four genetically distinct species](#)," he added.

The researchers also explained that dividing the populations into four species will help conservationists better protect the animals, since a decline in any one species will change its threat status, as designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

"Currently gentoo penguins are fairly stable in numbers, however there is some evidence of the northern populations moving further south as the climate gets warmer, so we need to watch them closely," Younger explained.

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'Go Back to School': Donald Trump Jr. Roasted Worldwide Over Error-Ridden Global 'Electoral Map'

by [Evan Craighead](#)

As Americans head to the polls to vote in the presidential election, Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of US President Donald Trump, is being dragged by netizens around the globe for an "electoral map" showing his father's alleged support worldwide.

"Okay, finally got around to making my electoral map prediction," Trump Jr. said in a Tuesday tweet including the hashtags "#2020Election" and "#VOTE."

It was not long before the map spread outside of Trump Jr.'s following and was mocked by thousands worldwide.

This comes just hours after the US president appeared to deny his namesake a hug during the reelection campaign's final rally at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Additionally, Trump Jr.'s election day post is not the only time he has displayed a lack of understanding of the world.

"I went through the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] data because I kept hearing about new infections," Trump Jr. [said during a Fox News interview on October 29](#), "but I was like, 'Well, why aren't they talking about deaths?' Oh, oh, because the number is almost nothing."

Nearly 232,000 American deaths have been linked to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, [according to the COVID-19 dashboard](#) of Johns Hopkins University.

As of this article's publication, US voters have cast more than 73% of the total number of ballots cast and recorded in the 2016 presidential election, [according to US Elections Project data](#).

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'Is That a Code?': Keith Olbermann Riles Up Twitter by Dubbing Trump 'Whiny Little Kunta Kinte'

by [Evan Craighead](#)

American sports commentator and political pundit Keith Olbermann is feeling the wrath of Twitter after he tweeted that US President Donald Trump was "a whiny little Kunta Kinte." The 61-year-old claims his dated "personal lexicography" is to blame for the insensitive social media post.

"Yes @realDonaldTrump has always been, will always be, and on the day of his bid for re-election, still is: a whiny little Kunta Kinte," Olbermann tweeted in response to [a video of Trump bashing Fox News](#) while calling into the network's "Fox & Friends" morning news show on Tuesday.

Since-deleted tweet authored by Keith Olbermann on November 3, 2020.

Kunta Kinte is the original name of the protagonist in "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," a 1976 novel by author Alex Haley. The book - later made into multiple TV miniseries and movies - is a work of historical fiction that followed the life of Haley's enslaved ancestors.

Kinte was viewed as stubborn by his enslavers because he did not accept "Toby" as his new name, despite being whipped for his defiance. He attempted to escape slavery a total of four times, with the final effort ending in his enslavers cutting off part of his right foot.

Netizens familiar with the classic American series immediately called out Olbermann.

Olbermann, hours later, attempted to clarify his tweet, claiming to have been attempting to use a dated "70's-80's technique" to call someone a c**t without explicitly saying the sexist slur.

His admission, understandably, prompted even more confusion.

"Reading Rainbow" host LeVar Burton, who played the younger Kunta Kinte in the 1977 TV miniseries version of "Roots," delivered Olbermann a quick linguistics lesson.

Burton also changed his Twitter profile picture to a photo of him portraying the character while on the set of "Roots."

"And you can never keep your personal lexicography as much as you'd like, so I especially appreciate the suggestions in this thread that 'See you next Tuesday' is the modern acceptable euphemism," Olbermann concluded in his so-called apology.

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'We Don't Want You, Marco': US Republican Lawmaker Clowned for 'Blue Wave' Tweet

by [Evan Craighead](#)

As voter data continues to pile in, US Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) argues that Republican voters in his home state of Florida will lead a wave to reelect US President Donald Trump. However, netizens say the potentially historic GOP voter turnout does not automatically translate to the president winning the election.

"In 2016 Republicans ended with a 0.6% turnout advantage in #Florida," Rubio argued in a Tuesday tweet that included a wave GIF. "Just wait until you see what it is this time."

"Early turnout reports indicate #Florida is witnessing a GOP voter participation % of historic proportions," he said hours earlier.

Netizens began to call Rubio out over his use of an image of a blue wave while implying that Republican, or "red," voter turnout will translate to Trump's reelection.

Rubio previously predicted there would be a "red wave" in Congress during the 2018 midterm elections.

"Forget about a blue wave," Rubio added, [as reported by The Hill](#). "A red wave of votes started coming in. That's what's gonna happen again now."

Of course, this was not the case, as Democrats reclaimed a majority in the House of Representatives after winning 41 seats, for a net gain of 39 seats, in the elections.

The Florida senator came under fire earlier this week after he appeared to back a group of Trump supporters who surrounded a Biden campaign bus in Texas last week.

"I saw yesterday a video of these people in Texas - did you see it?" Rubio [said to attendees of a Trump rally](#) at the Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

"All the cars on the road ... We love what they did! But here's the thing they don't know. We do that in Florida every day."

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Trump Projected to Win Battleground Florida With Nearly All Votes Counted
by [Evan Craighead](#)

US President Donald Trump is the projected winner of the state of Florida, a key, must-win state for the incumbent, according to results issued by Decision Desk HQ.

With more than 10.3 million votes counted, [Trump is projected to take Florida](#) in the presidential election over Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden.

A total of 29 electoral votes are expected to go to the US president for winning the state.

Decision Desk HQ has estimated that more than 95% of votes in the state are in.

"We feel really, really good about where we stand in Florida," Trump 2020 campaign manager Bill Stepien said on a Tuesday evening call with reporters, [as reported by Fox News](#).

He noted that Trump achieved "a lot of success in developing wider and deeper relationships" with the Cuban, Colombian, Venezuelan and Puerto Rican communities of Florida - particularly in South Florida.

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North Korean Man Detained After Crossing Inter-Korean Border, Says South Korean Military
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Members of the South Korean military have captured a North Korean some 10 hours after he crossed into South Korea via the eastern border.

"Our military safely captured the man at around 9:50 a.m. In coordination with related authorities, we will carry out investigation into the man, including how he crossed the border and if he has the intention to defect to the South," the Joint Chiefs of Staff [said in a statement](#) obtained by Yonhap News Agency of Seoul, South Korea.

"No unusual moves by the North Korean military have been detected."

Military officials claim the individual in question crossed the inter-Korean border near Goseong County in South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea.

The manhunt was initiated following late Tuesday night reports of a presumed defection attempt from the North, according to military officials.

It's unclear if the individual is a civilian or affiliated with North Korea's military.

Officials have not yet communicated how the person is believed to have crossed the border.