



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump attacked Joseph R. Biden Jr. and other Democrats as the Republican National Convention began in Charlotte, N.C.

## Falwell in Talks To Leave Post At University

This article is by **Ruth Graham, Elizabeth Dias and Frances Robles.**

The leadership of Jerry Falwell Jr., one of the most prominent evangelical supporters of President Trump, appeared to be nearing an end at Liberty University after a report emerged on Monday of sexual indiscretions involving Mr. Falwell, his wife and a pool attendant.

Top officials at Liberty, which Mr. Falwell helped build into a hugely influential, \$1.6 billion center of evangelical power, were seeking to finalize the terms of Mr. Falwell’s departure as the university’s president and chancellor.

The situation was confusing on Monday night, with a school spokesman telling news organizations that Mr. Falwell had resigned, Mr. Falwell denying those reports, and an official with knowledge of the behind-the-scenes drama asserting that the terms were still being negotiated.

“Falwell has not yet resigned, but he’s in negotiations with the school over his future,” said a person who was in touch with key players in the negotiations on Monday but was not authorized to speak on the record.

On Monday evening Mr. Falwell told Virginia Business, a local monthly magazine, that reports of his resignation were “completely false” and that he did not plan to step down.

It was clear that Mr. Falwell’s support had eroded. A Liberty University spokesman, Scott Lamb, said the leadership of the school’s board had been in discussion with Mr. Falwell and expected to make a statement on Tuesday.

“It’s a mess,” said Dustin Wahl, Continued on Page A19

## Wisconsin City Erupts After a Police Shooting

By **JULIE BOSMAN and SARAH MERVOSH**

KENOSHA, Wis. — When Annie Hurst stepped outside her house on Sunday night, she saw something that made her scream.

Across the street, a police officer was aiming his gun at Jacob Blake, her neighbor, as he tried to get into his car with three of his children in the back seat. The officer grabbed him by his shirt and fired several times, shooting him in the back.

Within hours, graphic video of the shooting was racing across social media, and Kenosha erupted into protest, looting and fires downtown.

By late afternoon Monday, more

### In Kenosha, Black Man Is Struck in the Back Multiple Times

than 100 members of the Wisconsin National Guard had been sent to Kenosha, demonstrators were gathering for another night of protest, and the Kenosha Police had ordered a curfew in the city, beginning at 8 p.m.

The scene of a white police officer shooting a Black man continues to occur with devastating frequency in the United States, even at the end of a summer marked by widespread protests and calls for

reform after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

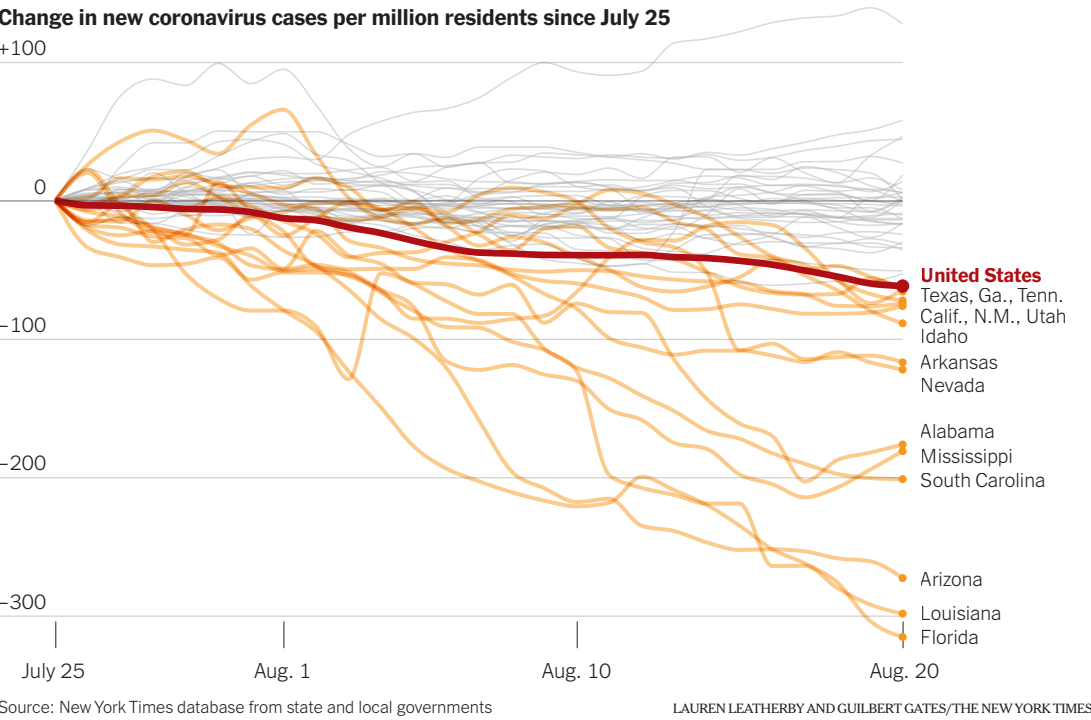
Kenosha, a city of 100,000 that a generation ago was a carmaking powerhouse, is the latest place where a police shooting left residents reeling. The shooting, which was captured in a brief but searing video by another neighbor, drew immediate condemnation from Gov. Tony Evers of Wisconsin, a Democrat, and set off protests and looting overnight throughout Kenosha’s small downtown area on the shore of Lake Michigan.

The shooting instantly became a rallying cry for demonstrators in cities like Portland, Ore., Madison, Wis., and Chicago, and a topic in the presidential race, where Wisconsin is a crucial battleground

Continued on Page A19

### Experts Say Policies Slowed Coronavirus Spread After a Surge in Cases

While infection rates in the United States remain among the world’s highest, all the states driving the decline in coronavirus cases have at least some local mask mandates. Page A6.



## ‘The Big Short 2.0’: How Bets Against Shopping Malls Paid Off

By **KATE KELLY**

Catie McKee was nervous. It was last October, and the 31-year-old hedge fund analyst, who had been scrutinizing the mortgages on the nation’s malls, was convinced that some of those malls would default on their loans. She and her colleagues had even bet a substantial amount of money on that likelihood.

Ms. McKee was about to make her case to Carl Icahn, one of the country’s best-known investors, who had made a similar wager and invited her team to discuss the trade. Nothing would bolster her confidence — and the prospects for her trade — more than if the billionaire and onetime corporate raider backed her up.

She needn’t have worried. As Ms. McKee sat in Mr. Icahn’s wood-paneled boardroom with a

### Pandemic Dealt a Blow to a Struggling Sector

sweeping view of Manhattan’s Central Park, discussing her thesis with the 83-year-old investor, she realized they shared the same outlook. Both agreed that e-commerce, changing consumer habits and evolving demographics had

pummeled all malls to some degree in recent years, but some were far worse off than others. So by betting on their demise, both could profit handsomely — which they did.

Mr. Icahn, whose hostile takeover of TWA in the 1980s established him as a major dealmaker, has made \$1.3 billion on the trade since that meeting. And the investors that made the trade within Continued on Page A7

# TRUMP NOMINATED AS G.O.P. DELIVERS OMINOUS MESSAGE

**NEWS ANALYSIS**  
*Focus on Grievance Instead of Uplift*

By **MATT FLEGENHEIMER**

President Trump was trying to rewrite history and enlist frontline Covid workers to the cause. The strain showed.

Flanked in the East Room of the White House by Americans involved in the fight against the coronavirus — a nurse, a trucker, a postal worker, another nurse — Mr. Trump set off on Monday for more than four rose-colored minutes recasting the recent past to his Night 1 convention audience.

“Tell me a little about your stories,” he asked his guests at first. But he had a few of his own: about dastardly Democrats and governors who disappointed him, about his preferred nicknames for the virus and the insufficient gratitude for his government’s efforts.

“We have delivered billions of dollars of equipment that governors were supposed to give, and in many cases they didn’t get,” he complained. “So the federal government had to help them, and all of the people that did this incredible work, they never got credit for it. But you understand where it came from.”

At least twice, Mr. Trump called the pandemic “the China virus,” seeking to deflect blame.

“I don’t want to go through all the names,” he said at one point, “because some people may get insulted. But that’s the way it is.”

And this is the way it was, as ever, on Monday night: a re-election team that had pledged a message of uplift and unity beforehand — with its candidate struggling in the polls amid poor appraisals of his pandemic response — and a principal who knows no other way but rampaging and revisionism.

All night, the proceedings played out in this perpetual tug. Any aspirational appeals from speakers like Nikki Haley, the former United Nations ambassador, and Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, the chamber’s only Black Republican, seemed doomed to be shadowed by the often ominous tone of the evening.

Some of the convention’s opening sequences often more closely resembled Mr. Trump’s preferred Fox News programming, with a roster of contributors holding Continued on Page A16

### Recasting History on Virus, Race and His Record

This article is by **Jonathan Martin, Alexander Burns and Annie Karni.**

President Trump and his political allies mounted a fierce and misleading defense of his political record on the first night of the Republican convention on Monday, while unleashing a barrage of attacks on Joseph R. Biden Jr. and the Democratic Party that were unrelenting in their bleakness.

Hours after Republican delegates formally nominated Mr. Trump for a second term, the president and his party made plain that they intended to engage in sweeping revisionism about Mr. Trump’s management of the coronavirus pandemic, his record on race relations and much else. And they laid out a dystopian picture of what the United States would look like under a Biden administration, warning of a “vengeful mob” that would lay waste to suburban communities and turn quiet neighborhoods into war zones.

At times, the speakers and pre-recorded videos appeared to be describing an alternate reality: one in which the nation was not nearing 180,000 dead from the coronavirus; in which Mr. Trump had not consistently ignored serious warnings about the disease; in which the president had not spent much of his term appealing openly to xenophobia and racial animus; and in which someone other than Mr. Trump had presided over an economy that began crumbling in the spring.

Donald Trump Jr., the president’s son, delivered a vehement address that framed the election as a choice between “church, work and school” and “rioting, looting and vandalism.”

The younger Mr. Trump also praised his father’s management Continued on Page A13



TRAVIS DOVE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES  
A delegate on Monday before the in-person roll-call vote.

## Crises Aside, Trump Counts On Economy to Seal Appeal

By **JIM TANKERSLEY**

It is an enduring political question amid a pandemic recession, double-digit unemployment and a recovery that appears to be slowing: Why does President Trump continue to get higher marks on economic issues in polls than his predecessors Barack Obama, George W. Bush and George H.W. Bush enjoyed when they stood for re-election?

Mr. Trump’s relative strength on the economy and whether Joseph R. Biden Jr. can cut into it over the next 10 weeks are among the crucial dynamics in battleground states in the Midwest and the Sun Belt that are expected to decide the election. Many of these states have struggled this summer with rising coronavirus infection and death rates as well as job losses and vanishing wages and savings — hard times that, history suggests, will pose a threat to an

incumbent president seeking reelection.

Yet polling data and interviews with voters and political analysts suggest that a confluence of factors are raising Mr. Trump’s standing on the economy issue, which remains a centerpiece of his pitch for a second term and is expected to be a major theme of the Republican National Convention this week.

The president has built an enduring brand with conservative voters, in particular, who continue to see him as a successful businessman and tough negotiator. Many of those voters praise his economic stewardship before the pandemic hit, and they do not blame him for the damage it has caused. In interviews, some of those voters cited record stock Continued on Page A15



NATIONAL A17-21

### Postal Chief on Defense

Louis DeJoy denounced suggestions that he was working to help President Trump politically. PAGE A20

### Trump Son’s Testimony Sought

New York’s attorney general asked a judge to order Eric Trump to comply with an inquiry. PAGE A21

INTERNATIONAL A9-11

### Putin Critic Was Poisoned

German doctors treating Aleksei A. Navalny in Berlin say he is the latest prominent Kremlin foe to be attacked with a toxic substance. PAGE A10

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-8

### Plasma Data Was Exaggerated

A claim made by the president that the treatment had reduced deaths by 35% was “grossly misrepresented.” PAGE A8

### A Reinfection in Hong Kong

A former patient contracted a new strain of the virus while traveling in Europe, researchers reported. PAGE A4



ARTS C1-7

### Live Theater. Remember That?

In Brooklyn, Maya Phillips watches two plays — in person. Above, Daniel Allen Nelson in “Beast Visit.” PAGE C2

### Larger Than Life

Catherine O’Hara of “Schitt’s Creek” and Cecily Strong of “S.N.L.” discuss their love of outsize characters. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

### Layoffs Loom in Europe

Despite furloughs that have kept tens of millions of Europeans employed, a tsunami of job cuts is about to hit as companies downsize. PAGE B1

SPORTS TUESDAY B7-9

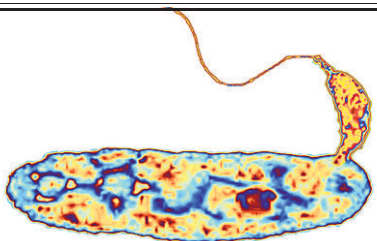
### 7th Inning Stretch Is Near

The Dodgers are 22-8, midway through a season that will be remembered for health rules, postponed games and expanded playoffs. On Baseball. PAGE B7

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

### Bret Stephens

PAGE A23



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

### Enlisting a Germ-Fighter

While little known, predatory bacteria rank among the world’s fiercest and most effective hunters. PAGE D1

