

FACES

'Billie' documentary explores darker side of singer's life
Page 18



MILITARY

Biden makes his case for Austin to lead Pentagon
Page 4



NFL

Surging NFC East could provide a threat in playoffs
Page 24

House approves defense policy bill with veto-proof majority >> Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79 Edition 169 ©SS 2020 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

VIRUS OUTBREAK



AARON LAVINSKY/AP

A critical care nurse with North Memorial Health Hospital leans down to speak to a COVID-19 patient in Robbinsdale, Minn., on Monday.

'A matter of life and death'

US fatalities from COVID-19 hit record levels with the holidays ahead

Associated Press

Deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S. have soared to more than 2,200 a day on average, matching the frightening peak reached last April, and cases per day have eclipsed 200,000 on average for the first time on record, with the crisis all but certain to get worse because of the fallout from Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Virtually every state is reporting surges just as a vaccine appears days away from getting the go-ahead in the U.S.

"What we do now literally will be a matter of life and death for many of our citizens," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Tuesday as he ex-

tended restrictions on businesses and social gatherings, including a ban on indoor dining and drinking at restaurants and bars.

While the impending arrival of the vaccine is reason for hope, he said, "at the moment, we have to face reality, and the reality is that we are suffering a very dire situation with the pandemic."

Elsewhere around the country, North Carolina's governor imposed a 10 p.m. curfew, and authorities in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley sent a mass cellphone text alert Tuesday telling millions about the rapid spread of the virus and urging them to abide by the state's stay-at-home orders.

The virus is blamed for more than 285,000 deaths and 15 million confirmed infections in the United States.

Many Americans disregarded warnings not to travel over Thanksgiving and have ignored other safety precautions, whether out of stubbornness, ignorance or complacency. On Saturday night, police in Southern California arrested nearly 160 people, many of them not wearing masks, at a house party in Palmdale that was held without the homeowner's knowledge.

Before his death Friday from complications

SEE DEATHS ON PAGE 6

First woman recommended to command an aircraft carrier

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Navy for the first time has recommended a woman for command of a U.S. aircraft carrier, Naval Air Forces spokesman Cmdr. Zachary Harrell said Wednesday.

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt, a former Navy helicopter pilot and commander of an amphibious transport dock, is one of six Navy captains recommended for carrier command by the Aviation Major Command Board on Nov. 21. The others are Colin Day, Gavin Duff, Brent Gaut, David Pollard and Craig Sicola.

The Navy has not yet assigned Bauernschmidt or her colleagues to a carrier, Harrell said. They will be eligible for command in fiscal year 2022.

The board was directed to consider officers' "breadth of experience to include major staff and joint duty assignments" in selecting those they wished to recommend, according to the Nov. 9 Navy order convening the screening board.

SEE CARRIER ON PAGE 5



GWENDELIN OHRAZDA/U.S. Navy

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt is seen aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln in 2018.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Apple to tighten privacy for app users

Associated Press

LONDON — Apple is stepping up privacy for app users, forcing developers to be more transparent about data collection and warning they could be removed if they don't comply with a new anti-tracking measure, a company executive and regulators said Tuesday.

The U.S. tech giant said it's set to roll out the anti-tracking feature next year and warned it could kick apps off its widely used App Store if they don't obey its require-

ments.

Called App Tracking Transparency, it will require apps to clearly ask for users' permission before tracking them.

It was due to be launched this year but was delayed to allow developers more time to make changes.

"Its aim is to empower our users to decide when or if they want to allow an app to track them in a way that could be shared across other companies' apps or websites," Senior Vice President of Software

Engineering Craig Federighi said. "Developers who fail to meet the standard can have their apps taken down from the app store," Federighi said in an online keynote speech to the European Data Protection and Privacy Conference.

Privacy campaigners say the move is a vital step that could strengthen respect for privacy but tech rivals like Facebook that make money from digital advertising that tracks users have pushed back against the measure.

EXCHANGE RATES

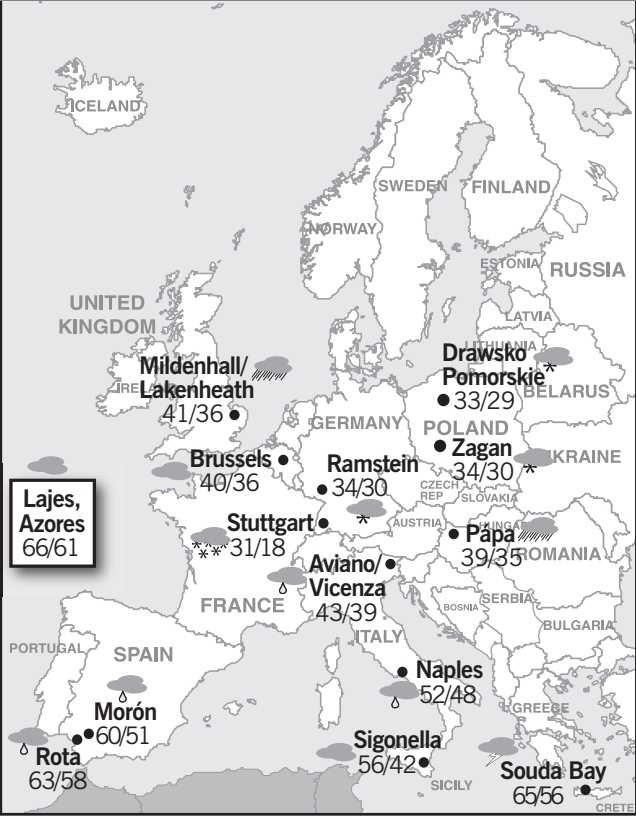
Military rates		So. Korea (Won)	1,085.78
Euro costs (Dec. 10)	\$1.18	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8890
Dollar buys (Dec. 10)	0.8043	Thailand (Baht)	30.07
British pound (Dec. 10)	\$1.31	Turkey (NewLira)	7.8019
Japanese yen (Dec. 10)	102.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (Dec. 10)	1,111.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	3.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Interest Rates Discount rate	0.25
Britain (Pound)	0.7449	Federal funds market rate	0.09
Canada (Dollar)	1.2786	3-month bill	0.10
China (Yuan)	6.5409	30-year bond	1.66
Denmark (Krone)	6.1514		
Egypt (Pound)	15.6891		
Euro	0.8265		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7521		
Hungary (Forint)	295.16		
Israel (Shekel)	3.2488		
Japan (Yen)	104.24		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3049		
Norway (Krone)	8.7674		
Philippines (Peso)	48.15		
Poland (Zloty)	3.66		
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7513		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3360		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup	11
Classified	13
Comics	16
Crossword	16
Faces	18
Opinion	14
Sports	20-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE		ADVERTISING	
KRISTI KIMMEL	CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111	DSN: 314.583.9111
MIDDLE EAST		ADVERTISING	
KRISTI KIMMEL	CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111	DSN: 314.583.9111
PACIFIC		ADVERTISING	
ICHIRO KATAYANAGI	PacificAdvertising@stripes.com	CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313	DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo

MILITARY



ALUN THOMAS/U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion - Phoenix

Future soldier Kenny Oliver, right, poses with his recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Moe, outside Arrowhead Recruiting Station in Glendale, Ariz., on Dec. 3. Oliver, who helped write and produce the 2011 hit "Sexy and I Know It," will ship out to basic combat training on Dec. 28.

DJ's a soldier now and he knows it

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

DJ Kenny Oliver, who created songs with dance music duo LMFAO and other big names in the past decade, started losing his enthusiasm for music as club and festival gigs dried up during the coronavirus pandemic, he said.

So he dropped beat-making and enlisted in the Army.

The 29-year-old sees military service as "an extension" of things he'd done to challenge himself, he said in an Army statement.

"But to serve my country is my number one reason for enlisting," he said.

The song that made his music career, "Sexy and I Know It," was an earworm in 2012, when it was featured in Madonna's Super Bowl halftime show and in an M&M's commercial that aired during the big game.

Its quirky video has been viewed over 800 million times, and the tune has been parodied and paid homage to on YouTube, including by British soldiers on a forward operating base in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Oliver co-wrote and co-produced it and four other tracks on LMFAO's 2011 album "Sorry for Party Rocking," under the pseudonym Audiotobot.

The song's chart-topping success — it's sold over 8 million copies — was a highpoint for Oliver, who was 20 at the time.

A native of Moreno Valley, Calif., near March Air Force Base, he'd been working for his dad painting houses and was teaching himself to make music by watching YouTube tutorials when he got his big break after a friend passed his remix of LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" to the group.

"One morning ... I got an email

from LMFAO saying they'd gotten my remix and wanted to meet me," Oliver recalled.

The band was already working on "Sexy and I Know It," he said, but he made them a new beat for it.

"They put the vocals over it and that was the final version," he said. "My name went on the credits as a producer and I got a plaque for it as well. It was financially rewarding and to this day I still get royalty checks."

Later that year, he co-wrote and produced "T.H.E (The Hardest Ever)" with Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am.

That song featured performances by Jennifer Lopez and Mick Jagger and rose to 36 on the Billboard Hot 100.

He moved to the Phoenix area in 2017 and was playing clubs and festivals until the coronavirus laid waste to live performing, the Army statement said.

Recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Moe, who lives around the corner from Oliver, knew little about his successes in the music business when they first began working together.

"I think it's an amazing thing, to be in that lifestyle for years and then join the Army," Moe said in the Army statement.

To prepare to ship out to boot camp at Fort Jackson, S.C., later this month, Oliver said he's been watching YouTube videos — just as he did to learn to make music.

He plans to become a chaplain assistant and, once he gets to a permanent duty station, to keep making music.

"Music is therapy for me — it's important for me to continue to be creative," he said.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

House passes defense bill despite Trump's veto threat

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House voted Tuesday to approve a \$740.5 billion defense spending bill as the Senate prepares to vote on the same legislation that President Donald Trump has threatened to veto.

House members passed the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets funding and policy priorities for the Pentagon, by a 335-78 vote, which is enough support to reach the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

"Today, the House sent a strong, bipartisan message to the American people: Our service members and our national security are more important than politics," said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"The House has proven we are

capable of legislating and reaching compromise that results in good policy outcomes," he said.

The Senate is set to vote on the bill in the coming days. The bill would then go to President Donald Trump for him to sign it into law.

However, Trump has made repeated threats to veto the NDAA after Congress declined to cater to his wishes with the legislation. In the summer, Trump threatened to sink the bill over efforts to rename military bases that honor Confederate leaders.

The NDAA was passed by the House and Senate with measures to plan for the renaming of several Army bases.

Trump more recently threatened to veto the NDAA over a repeal of legal liability protections for social media companies, which the final NDAA also does not include. Some Republicans backed the idea, though they said it falls

out of the jurisdictions of military policy and reining in technology companies should be its own legislation.

"For members considering to vote 'no' because of this issue, ask yourself, do you think you'll get a better bill in two months?" said Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., a member of the House Armed Services Committee. "The answer is 'no'."

The defense bill also puts restrictions on Trump's planned withdrawal of troops from Germany and Afghanistan.

The NDAA authorizes a 3% pay raise for troops and slightly increases hazardous duty pay.

It also includes \$2.2 billion for the Pentagon to begin a Pacific Deterrence Initiative in an effort to check growing Chinese military power in the Indo-Pacific region.

Beynon.Steven@Stripes.com
Twitter: @StevenBeynon



U.S. ARMY

F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, are seen on a routine mission in 2008. The search is ongoing for a pilot missing after an F-16 crashed in Michigan on Tuesday.

Search continues for pilot missing after F-16 crashes in Michigan

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military troops and local emergency responders are searching for a Wisconsin Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot who ejected Tuesday night before the jet crashed in northern Michigan, Guard officials said.

Crews are searching by ground, air and water in the area for the missing pilot whose jet crashed about 8 p.m. during a routine training flight, according to the Wisconsin Guard's 115th Fighter Wing.

The Guard said the pilot's status remained unknown Wednesday morning.

"We are a close knit family and when an incident like this occurs, every member in our organization feels it," Air Force Col. Bart Van Roo, the 115th Fighter Wing's commander, said Wednesday in a statement. "The safety of our pilot along with search and rescue efforts are our top priority, and we will continue to pray for the pilot's safe return."

The Guard said the aircraft crashed in Delta County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a rural and heavily wooded area along Lake Michigan. Local news outlets, including WLUC TV, reported the jet crashed into the Hiawatha National Forest.

Wisconsin National Guard offi-

cials said members of the 115th Fighter Wing had arrived by Wednesday at the crash site to secure the area. The cause of the crash was not yet clear and was under investigation, a Guard official said.

The 115th Fighter Wing is based at Truax Field, an Air National Guard Base just outside of Madison, Wis., some 250 miles south of the crash site.

The wing announced earlier this week that it would be conducting nighttime flying operations from Dec. 7 to Dec. 10 to certify its pilots to fly in the dark.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

MILITARY

Biden makes case for Austin to be Pentagon chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden made his case for retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin to be secretary of defense, urging Congress to waive a legal prohibition against a recently serving military officer running the Pentagon.

With concern rising in Congress about maintaining civilian control of the military, Biden on Tuesday suggested he felt a need to counter an emerging narrative that Austin's nomination blurs the lines between civil and military roles.

"Given the immense and urgent threats and challenges our nation faces, he should be confirmed swiftly," Biden wrote in *The Atlantic*. It was his first public confirmation that Austin is his pick for Pentagon chief, although word had leaked out Monday, prompting criticism and skepticism from some in Congress.

Biden countered the concerns by arguing that Austin knows that a Pentagon chief's duties are different from those of a military officer. He said Austin is aware that "the civil-military dynamic has been under great stress these past four years," an allusion to President Donald Trump's hiring of numerous retired generals for key posts early in his administration, including retired Marine Gen. Jim Mattis as defense secretary.

Biden argued that Austin would work to put the civil-military balance "back on track." He said the main reason he picked Austin was because he reacts well under pressure.

"He is the person we need in this moment," Biden wrote.

Austin would be the first Black

leader of the Pentagon, and the historic nature of the nomination, particularly in a year of extraordinary racial tension in the country, adds an intriguing dimension to the debate in Congress over one of the key members of Biden's Cabinet.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., followed Biden's lead, announcing her support and calling Austin "particularly well-positioned to lead during this precarious moment."

Austin was an unexpected choice. Most speculation centered on Michele Flournoy, an experienced Washington hand and Biden supporter. She would have been the first woman to run the Pentagon. Flournoy issued a statement Tuesday congratulating Austin and calling him a man of deep integrity.

Austin is widely admired for his military service, which includes leading troops in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and overseeing U.S. military operations throughout the greater Middle East as head of Central Command. But the requirement for a congressional waiver makes getting him installed as Pentagon chief more complicated than usual. Austin retired in 2016 after 41 years in the Army and has never held a political position.

Such a congressional waiver has been granted only twice: in 1950 for George Marshall and in 2017 for Mattis.

Civilian control of the military is rooted in Americans' historic wariness of large standing armies with the power to overthrow the government it is intended to serve. That is why the president is the



BRANDON BOLICK/U.S. Department of Defense

Then-U.S. Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commanding general, U.S. Forces-Iraq, speaks with soldiers in Diyala province, Iraq, in 2010. President-elect Joe Biden has nominated Austin to be secretary of defense.

commander in chief of the armed forces, and it reflects the rationale behind the prohibition against a recently retired military officer serving as defense secretary.

Some Democrats who agreed to the 2017 waiver saw Mattis as tempering Trump's impulsive nature and offsetting his lack of national security experience. Now the Mattis period at the Pentagon is viewed by some as an argument against waiving the seven-year rule for Austin. Mattis critics say he surrounded himself with military officers at the expense of a broader civilian perspective. He resigned in December 2018 in protest of Trump's policies.

Similar concerns may emerge with an Austin nomination.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said despite the historic nature of the nomination, he would not vote for a waiver because it "would contravene the basic principle that there should be civilian control over a nonpolitical military."

"That principle is essential to our democracy ... I think (it) has to be applied, unfortunately, in this

instance," he said.

Rep. Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat, said she has mixed feelings, including deep respect for Austin, with whom she worked as a Pentagon official during his years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"But choosing another recently retired general to serve in a role that is designed for a civilian just feels off," she said. "The job of secretary of defense is purpose-built to ensure civilian oversight of the military."

Slotkin said the last four years have thrown that out of balance. She said she wants to know how the Biden administration will address her concerns before she votes for a waiver.

One of the people who confirmed Biden's decision on Monday said the selection was about choosing the best possible person but acknowledged that pressure had built to name a candidate of color.

Biden has known Austin at least since the general's years leading U.S. and coalition troops in Iraq while Biden was vice president. Austin was commander in Bagh-

dad of the Multinational Corps-Iraq in 2008 when Barack Obama was elected president, and he returned to lead troops from 2010 through 2011.

Among Austin's many military assignments, in 2009-2010 he ran the joint staff during a portion of Navy Adm. Mike Mullen's term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said Lloyd would make a "superb" secretary of defense.

"He knows firsthand the complex missions our men and women in uniform conduct around the world," Mullen said in a statement. "He puts a premium on alliances and partnerships. He respects the need for robust and healthy civil-military relations. And he leads inclusively, calmly and confidently."

Austin, a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, served in 2012 as the first Black vice chief of staff of the Army. A year later he assumed command of Central Command, where he fashioned and began implementing a strategy for rolling back the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Report: US Army Pacific commander may lead USFK

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A four-star Army general who led the fight against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria may be nominated to take command of U.S. Forces Korea, according to multiple media reports.

U.S. Army Pacific commander Gen. Paul LaCamera — named by the Yonhap News Agency on Friday as the likely next leader of U.S. forces on the divided peninsula — is one of the Army's most experienced combat leaders. The report cited anonymous sources.

The NK News website publish-



LaCamera

ed a similar report Tuesday.

However, in a statement Wednesday, USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters said no official announcement has been made about a new commander and that the reports are speculative.

If nominated and confirmed, LaCamera will succeed Gen. Robert Abrams as commander of 28,500 American troops in South Korea, and as head of the U.N.

Command and the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command. Abrams assumed those posts in November 2018.

LaCamera, when he took his post in Hawaii in November 2019, was praised by the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. Philip Davidson.

"His operational experience is truly unmatched, with more than three decades of service in leadership positions within the infantry, airborne and special operations units," Davidson said. "He has deployed for longer periods than just about anyone currently

serving in the U.S. Army."

Immediately before he took command of U.S. Army Pacific, LaCamera led America's campaign against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"Under his leadership, Inherent Resolve recovered more than 100,000 square kilometers of territory across Iraq and Syria, liberating nearly 8 million people from ISIS control," Davidson said.

LaCamera, a 1985 West Point graduate, has served with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea, deployed to Panama, Haiti, Af-

ghanistan, Iraq and Syria and was deputy commander of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii from 2010 to 2012.

LaCamera, when he took command in Hawaii, summed up his philosophy of winning in warfare.

"Combat is simple blocking and tackling, executed with discipline and leadership," he said. "To me, we must be able to trade our equipment with the enemy and still win. That to me is leadership and training."

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

MILITARY

Group warns of increase in Afghan airstrikes

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S.-based institute warned on Tuesday that there has been a dramatic increase in airstrikes conducted by Afghan government forces from July to September this year, attacks that have led to a sharp rise in civilian casualties.

The Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, a research center at Brown University, said in its report that 70 Afghan civilians have been killed in the third quarter of this year, compared to 86 killed in the first six months of 2020.

The somber statistic comes even as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban are holding negotiations about a peaceful resolution to the country's 19-year war. The talks have been underway since September in Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office. The two sides

last week finally made a step forward after a long impasse, agreeing on rules and procedures for the negotiations.

In its report, the institute also said that from 2017 through 2019, civilian deaths due to U.S. and allied forces' airstrikes in Afghanistan dramatically increased. In 2019, airstrikes killed 700 civilians — more civilians than in any other year since the beginning of the war in 2001 and 2002.

The civilians have borne the brunt of the fighting, despite repeated pleas from the United Nations to spare civilian lives. A resurgent Taliban have gained control of almost half of Afghanistan over the past years, the strongest the insurgents have been since their regime was ousted by the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Among the casualties included in the research institute's statistics are the 24 Af-

ghan civilians, including children, killed in government airstrikes in northern Kunduz province on Sept. 19.

Villagers said an initial airstrike targeted a house belonging to a Taliban fighter, whose home doubled as a checkpoint for stopping and frisking people to ensure they were not connected to the government. The explosion set fire to a nearby home, trapping a family inside, said Latif Rahmani, who witnessed the airstrikes and spoke to The Associated Press by phone.

Rahmani said farmers and villagers ran to douse the fire and rescue the trapped family members inside when a second airstrike hit, killing many of them.

Despite the talks in Qatar, the violence has continued, claiming more lives, including those of children. At least 12 civilians, mostly children, were killed in an airstrike

that hit a madrassa, or an Islamic school, in northern Takhar province in mid-October.

Last Tuesday, 9-year-old Mohammad Bilal, a second-grader in eastern Ghazni province, had gone out to the village grocery store — a shipping container — to buy candy for himself, when Afghan helicopters bombarded his village.

He was killed when one of the 12 rockets that hit the village struck the store, said his father, Javed Zamani. Two of the shopkeepers children were also killed in the store, while five children aged 10 to 12 were critically wounded and were transferred to a Kabul hospital.

Afghan officials claimed the helicopters were targeting Taliban militants in the village and hit the children by mistake. The Taliban control much of Ghazni province, including the rural areas.



BENJAMIN KITTLESON/U.S. NAVY

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt, commander of the amphibious transport dock USS San Diego, observes sea and anchor detail on the bridge of the ship in March. She is one of six Navy captains recommended for carrier command by the Aviation Major Command Board.

Carrier: Bauernschmidt will be eligible for command in 2022

FROM PAGE 1

The Navy has 11 aircraft carriers, all nuclear powered and the largest warships afloat, according to Navy.mil. Including their air wings, each carries a crew of about 5,000 and 60-75 aircraft.

Bauernschmidt in August 2016 became the first female executive officer of an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln. Most recently, she commanded the amphibious transport dock USS San Diego from November 2019 until October.

A 1994 Naval Academy graduate, Bauernschmidt was commissioned about two months after the

first women ever to serve aboard combat ships received their orders, according to her Navy biography. Congress lifted the ban on women serving in such roles the year before.

"That law absolutely changed my life," Bauernschmidt told CBS News on Nov. 12, 2018. "We were the first class that graduated knowing and feeling honored with the privilege to be able to go serve along the rest of our comrades in combat."

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., she became a naval aviator in 1996 and spent her early career deployed in the Northern Arabian Gulf with

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 45 aboard the destroyer USS John Young, according to her biography. She later served as an instructor pilot, department head and executive officer of several helicopter squadrons. She has more than 3,000 flight hours.

Bauernschmidt in 2013 also served as senior military adviser to the State Department Office of Global Women's Issues, "enhancing women's peace and security through worldwide initiatives," according to her biography.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

Trump administration seeks to rename 2 bases for Space Force

The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Two Florida military bases involved in Space Force operations may be renamed by order of top Trump administration officials.

A renaming ceremony was ordered to coincide with Space Force's first birthday, according to a report by Defense One.

U.S. officials are pushing back on the U.S. Air Force plans because the changes reportedly violate a "gentleman's agreement" with congressional staffers who asked the military not to rename any bases until after Donald Trump signs the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, Defense One reported.

The bill also contains legisla-

tion to create a commission to oversee the renaming of bases named after Confederate soldiers.

One of the proposed bases up for a change is Patrick Air Force Base, which would be renamed Patrick Space Force Base. Cape Canaveral Air Force Station would become Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Defense One reported.

New signs at the bases are expected to cost taxpayers \$50,000.

Base operations are to be overseen by the Department of the Air Force.

Military officials reportedly are onboard with the name changes, but are concerned about the timing of the event.

Blue Angels to make 6 stops in Fla.

The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

The Navy Blue Angels will be making the most stops in Florida in 2021 with the Air Force Thunderbirds making only one air show stop and one flyover for the Daytona 500.

Both performance teams for the two branches of the military had previously announced their show schedules for next year, which looks to be a return to normality after many of their appearances were canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Blue Angels also announced their 2022 plans at the virtual International Council of Air Shows on Tuesday.

For 2021, though, the Thunderbirds will be the first to show up, making their annual flyby on Feb. 14 for the Daytona 500 over Dayto-

na International Speedway.

Other than that, the Air Force will only be featured in the Cocoa Beach Air Show on April 17-18.

The Blue Angels, who have their home base in the Panhandle at NAS Pensacola, will headline six air shows in Florida next year.

They begin April 10-11 at NAS Jacksonville for the NAS JAX Air Show followed by an April 17-18 appearance at the Sun N' Fun Expo in Lakeland.

In May, they will appear at the Fort Lauderdale Air Show on May 8-9 followed by the Great Florida Air Show on May 15-16 in Melbourne.

They will make their annual summer stop July 10 at the Pensacola Beach Air Show and then end with the NAS Pensacola Homecoming Air Show on Nov. 5-6.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Base facilities closed after mask-free dancing

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Forces Korea has closed a pair of facilities at Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base after local media reports of people dancing without masks at parties at both places.

A crowd danced without masks inside the Flightline Tap Room at Camp Humphreys south of Seoul on Friday, the Korea Times newspaper reported Tuesday, citing photographs and videos posted on social media.

The Newsis website reported Wednesday that a similar event happened on Osan.

The reports come as coronavirus cases surge on the peninsula. The government there has described the surge in dire terms and has urged citizens to refrain from nonessential gatherings.

South Korea on Tuesday re-



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A social distancing decal is posted at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, in March.

ported 686 new cases of coronavirus, according to the Central Disease Control Headquarters.

Seoul, the capital city, and Busan, the country's second largest city, are off-limits to U.S. military

personnel. USFK over the weekend expanded the off-limits area and on Monday reported 17 new coronavirus cases since Nov. 20.

"United States Forces Korea is aware of two recent on-installation events that displayed poor

judgment and actions inconsistent with USFK's core tenets and COVID-19 health protection mitigation measures," the command said in a statement Wednesday. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters, in a phone call to Stars and Stripes, confirmed the USFK statement came in response to press reports about the base parties.

Those activities don't reflect USFK's commitment to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus, the statement said.

"USFK has closed both facilities involved in the recent incidents until further notice, and will continue to implement mitigation measures to ensure our installations remain consistent with our core tenets and [South Ko-

rean] government social distancing measures," the statement said.

U.S. military personnel, civilians and family members in South Korea are expected to follow coronavirus mitigation measures on and off their installations at all times, the statement said.

USFK has ordered personnel to avoid bars and nightclubs, stay three feet away from each other and wear masks when that's not possible.

In summer the command expressed regret for "disruptive behavior" after American troops caused a ruckus with a Fourth of July party that included fireworks on a popular beach in the southern city of Busan.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. robson.seth@stripes.com Twitter: @SethRobson1

US Army is limiting activities off posts near Tokyo

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — U.S. military commands in Japan have tightened their coronavirus restrictions as case numbers in Japan continue to climb and the holidays approach.

U.S. Army Japan ordered its troops to stop anything other than essential activity off its posts around Tokyo on Tuesday and banned public transportation and indoor restaurant dining.

The Air Force and Marine Corps on Okinawa this week reissued coronavirus orders that prioritize the wearing of masks. And a Defense Department school on the island again Tuesday told students in eight separate classes to remain home after someone there tested positive for the virus Monday.

The Marines reported four new coronavirus cases Wednesday at Camp Hansen, also on Okinawa. So far in December, the service has recorded 31 new patients on the island.

At Kadena Air Base, the principal of Kadena High School told students and teachers in eight classes to stay home while public health authorities await results of tests for people who had contact with a person who tested positive Monday.

Principal Kristopher Kwiatek, in a letter posted online Tuesday, said all those contacts have been identified; however, students and teachers in the eight classes are "asked to remain home until public health provides further guidance."

Japan on Wednesday reported 1,862 new coronavirus cases, a third of them in Tokyo, according to the World Health Organization and public broadcaster NHK. The



WINIFRED BROWN/U.S. Army

Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force check a driver for coronavirus symptoms at Camp Zama, Japan, in March.

high point in Japan thus far occurred Nov. 29, the day it announced 2,585 infections.

Tokyo on Wednesday reported its second-highest daily count of new patients, 572, four days after setting its pandemic record, 584, according to public broadcaster NHK. The positivity rate, or percentage of people who test positive, is about 6%, relatively high. And more than 400 people, on average, were infected in Tokyo every day over the past week, according to metro government data.

All or parts of Tokyo are off-limits to U.S. military personnel, including civilians, except those who live there or are on official

business.

From its headquarters at Camp Zama near Tokyo, U.S. Army Japan tightened restrictions on its soldiers stationed near the capital city, citing the rising number of coronavirus cases in Japan.

Service members, while not restricted to their homes or on Army installations, nonetheless are prohibited from "nonessential off-post activity," according to a Facebook by U.S. Army Japan on Tuesday.

Troops may shop for groceries, take their children to child care, pay bills and keep medical appointments, for example, according to the post.

The order affects the Army in-

stallations near Tokyo in Kanagawa prefecture: Camp Zama, Sagami General Depot, Sagami Family Housing Area and Yokohama North Dock.

Civilian employees and family members are "strongly encouraged to comply" with the restrictions, according to the post. Failure to do so could mean being barred from post or having family members sent back to the United States.

The heightened restrictions are not pegged to any one development but are recommendations to U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Viet Luong from a team that meets regularly and reviews a sweep of information, command

spokesman Kevin Krejcarek told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

The restrictions are typical of a substantial risk of the coronavirus spreading, in military terms Health Protection Condition-Charlie, but the Army remains at a lower status, condition Bravo-plus, a risk slightly higher than moderate. No one is discussing a higher risk level, Krejcarek said.

The Army on Friday also extended an order prohibiting its people from visiting Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, 26 miles north of Camp Zama, until further notice. Yokota experienced an increase in locally acquired coronavirus infections that peaked in November.

However, personnel at Yokota are not prohibited from visiting nearby Army posts, including Camp Zama, according to the public health order updated Tuesday by Yokota base commander Col. Andrew Campbell.

A spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan said Wednesday that each installation commander has discretion to adjust their policies and procedures based on local conditions.

"As we have seen, infection rates and conditions vary widely across Japan and they can change quickly," Col. Robert Firman said in an email to Stars and Stripes. "It would be impossible for USFJ to dictate a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. I know it can be frustrating for individual members at installations that are relatively close to each other, but local policies are determined by local commanders."

ditzler.joseph@stripes.com Twitter: @JosephDitzler

For most US personnel, traveling in Germany is just a holiday wish

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer H. Svan contributed to this report.
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

The image shows a business card for 'Honda Ecker'. On the left, there is a list of services: 'Accident Repairs', 'Body Work', 'Maintenance', 'Warranty - Work', 'Damage Estimates', and 'Tax Free'. To the right of the list is the Honda logo (a stylized 'H' in a rounded square) and the word 'Ecker' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo and name, the text 'HONDA & ACURA' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the website 'www.honda-ecker.de' is listed, followed by the email address 'hauptstuhl@honda-ecker.de' and the phone numbers 'Mon-Fri 0800 - 1700 • Sat 0900-1300'. At the bottom of the card, the address '06372-4607 • Kaiserstr. 79, 66851 Hauptstuhl' is printed.

STARS AND STRIPES®

LETTERS TO SANTA

STARS AND STRIPES IS HELPING TO
SEND YOUR WISH LIST TO SANTA!

STEP 1

WRITE
YOUR LETTER
DON'T FORGET
TO DECORATE IT!

STEP 2

ADDRESS IT TO
SANTA CLAUS
C/O STARS AND STRIPES
NORTH POLE

STEP 3

DROP IT IN
ANY US OR APO
MAILBOX*

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT
LETTERSTOSANTA.STRIPES.COM

*Postmark by Dec. 24th
and Santa may have time
to send a note in return!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We wish you and yours
the very best this season.

Andrews FEDERAL CREDIT UNION®

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

White House seeks \$600 checks in bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration dived back into Capitol Hill's confusing COVID-19 negotiations, offering a \$916 billion package to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that would send a \$600 direct payment to most Americans but eliminate a \$300-per-week employment benefit favored by a bipartisan group of Senate negotiators.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin made the offer to Pelosi late Tuesday afternoon, he said in a statement. He offered few details, though House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy said it proposes the \$600 direct payment for individuals and \$1,200 for couples, which is half the payment delivered by the March pandemic relief bill.

Mnuchin reached out to Pelosi after a call with top congressional GOP leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who remains at odds with Democratic leaders over COVID-19 relief. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., responded to Mnuchin's entreaty with a statement that said they would prefer to let a bipartisan group take the lead.

The bipartisan group, led by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, among others, is seeking to rally lawmakers in both parties behind a \$908 billion framework that includes a \$300-per-week pandemic jobless benefit and \$160 billion for states and local governments. It is more generous than a GOP plan that's been filibustered twice already but far smaller than a wish list assembled by House Democrats.

McConnell had earlier proposed shelving a top Democratic priority — aid to state and local governments — in exchange for dropping his own pet provision, a shield against lawsuits for COVID-related negligence.

Idaho

BOISE — Idaho public health officials abruptly ended a meeting Tuesday after the Boise mayor and chief of police said intense protests outside the health department building — as well as outside some health officials' homes — were threatening public safety.

The request from Boise Mayor Lauren McLean and the Boise Police Department came just a few minutes after one health board member, Ada County Commissioner Diana Lachiondo, tearfully interrupted the online meeting to say she had to rush home from work to be with her son. The board had been expected to vote on a four-county mask mandate in

Idaho's most populated region.

"My 12-year-old son is home alone right now and there are protestors banging outside the door," Lachiondo said.

Another board member, family physician Dr. Ted Epperly, said protests were "not under control at my house," as well. Protesters went to at least three board members' homes, the Boise Police Department said.

Hundreds of protesters gathered at the Central District Health parking lot before and during the meeting. The protest at the health building was organized, at least in part, by a loose multi-state group called People's Rights. The group was created by Ammon Bundy, an outspoken opponent of mask mandates during the coronavirus pandemic who gained national attention and stoked the so-called "patriot movement" after leading armed standoffs at his father's Nevada ranch in 2014 and at a wildlife refuge in eastern Oregon in 2016. Members of an anti-vaccination group called Health Freedom Idaho also attended the protest. It wasn't immediately known if Bundy attended the Boise protests Tuesday evening.

California

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County's health director acted "arbitrarily" and didn't prove the danger to the public when she banned outdoor dining at restaurants as coronavirus cases surged last month, a judge ruled Tuesday in a case other businesses may use to try to overturn closures and restrictions.

The county failed to show that health benefits outweigh the negative economic effects before issuing the ban, Superior Court Judge James Chalfant wrote. He also said the county did not offer evidence that outdoor dining presented a greater risk of spreading the virus.

"By failing to weigh the benefits of an outdoor dining restriction against its costs, the county acted arbitrarily and its decision lacks a rational relationship to a legitimate end, the judge wrote.

Chalfant limited the outdoor dining ban to three weeks and said once it expires Dec. 16 the Department of Public Health must conduct a risk-benefit analysis before trying to extend it.

Kansas

WICHITA — Bar owners in Kansas' largest city are challenging rules designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, hoping to use the courts to overturn a mask mandate, limits on public gatherings and an 11 p.m. closing time for bars and restaurants.



DARIN OSWALD/AP

Anti-masker demonstrators converge on Central District Health offices, Tuesday in Boise, Idaho, to the protest a meeting deciding on more mandates to combat the spread of COVID-19.

If the bar owners and others suing officials in Wichita and its home of Sedgwick County are successful, they would take the county back to business as it was before the coronavirus pandemic reached Kansas in early March, The Wichita Eagle reports.

The lawsuit is partially crowd-funded by "Unmask the Truths," a Facebook and web-based group of mask opponents. It was first filed in state district court in late November, but attorneys for both sides had it moved to federal court this month because the lawsuit alleges that pandemic rules violate the business owners' rights to free speech and due legal process under the U.S. Constitution.

"A face mask has become a symbol of an attempt by the government to gain control of its citizenry," the lawsuit claims. "Forcing them to wear face masks is forcing them to convey a message with which they disagree."

The lawsuit was filed by 10 businesses, their owners and two other Sedgwick County residents who allege that their rights as citizens are violated.

New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE — Top health officials say New Mexico has a solid plan in place to stretch hospital and health care resources as far as possible before having to ration care, but they also warned Tuesday that the state could face that prospect if the coronavirus pandemic worsens.

Human Services Secretary Dr. David Scrase said there are hospitals around New Mexico facing extremely high demands and state health officials are expected to formally declare soon that providers are at a stage where rationing care. Such a step is likely despite a slowdown in the rate of spread and a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases being reported daily in the state.

Under a crisis standards of care declaration, an established

framework and guidelines would be used for making ethical decisions about triaging care.

"The trigger for when that happens is actually when the resources don't match the demand," said Dr. Michael Richards, vice chancellor for clinical affairs with the University of New Mexico Health System. "In our case, we've had months of this and months to prepare."

Local triage boards are up and running at hospitals around the state and a centralized call center has been helping to identify which hospitals have room and which ones need help. Unlike other states, the idea early on was for separate providers in New Mexico to work together to pool their resources since the state already ranked near the bottom nationally for the number of hospital beds per 1,000 residents.

Illinois

CHICAGO — The city of Chicago has cited a restaurant owed by an alderman for allowing customers to dine inside in violation of rules designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, city officials said Tuesday.

Ann Sather, a restaurant owned by Alderman Tom Tunney, faces two citations, which carry maximum fines of more than \$10,000 combined, according to Chicago's Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Department.

Indoor dining has been shut down in the city since late October. And Tunney has previously acknowledged that allowing diners inside his restaurant in the Wrigleyville neighborhood was an "error in judgment."

"We've been sporadically letting some people in, regulars at the restaurant, to accommodate them from time to time," Tunney said Monday. "It's done. It will not continue, as of today."

Tunney on Tuesday declined to comment about the citations, beyond acknowledging he received

them and has a hearing date early next year.

Tunney is the latest politician facing scrutiny for not following social distancing rules. Recently, California Gov. Gavin Newsom was ridiculed for attending a dinner at a restaurant and ignoring mask mandates. Also, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock flew to Houston ahead of Thanksgiving despite his warnings that people should stay close to home and spend the holiday with their own household.

Nevada

RENO — A three-member U.S. appeals court panel appeared sympathetic Tuesday to arguments by lawyers for two Nevada churches that say state COVID-19 restrictions treating churches differently than casinos and other secular businesses violate their First Amendment rights.

The 9th Circuit panel in San Francisco heard arguments via video from lawyers for Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley east of Reno and Cavalry Chapel Lone Mountain in Las Vegas who want the appellate court to reverse earlier district court rulings upholding hard attendance caps Gov. Steve Sisolak has set on the size of indoor worship services.

They say churches should be held to the same standards that allow casinos, bars, restaurants and others to operate based on a percentage of their capacity — currently 25% — not a hard cap.

"What Calvary Chapel Lone Mountain is seeking is equal footing," said Sigal Chattah, its lead attorney.

All three justices cited recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings that handed victories to churches waging similar battles over religious freedom in New York and California. Each expressed skepticism about various arguments lawyers for Nevada made to justify disparate treatment of churches and secular businesses.

NATION

AP: Biden picks Fudge for housing, Vilsack for USDA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden made two key domestic policy picks, selecting Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge as his housing and urban development secretary and former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to reprise that role in his administration, according to five people familiar with the decisions.

The picks on Tuesday highlighted Biden's delicate balancing act as he builds out his Cabinet, seeking to diversify his picks and reward the coalitions that helped elect him while also following his instincts to surround himself with close allies who served in the Obama administration.

Fudge, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, was just elected to a seventh term representing a majority Black district that includes parts of Cleveland and Akron. Vilsack spent eight

years as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Obama administration and served two terms as Iowa governor.

Their intended nominations were confirmed to The Associated Press by five people familiar with one or both of the decisions who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid preempting the president-elect's announcement.

Biden has viewed Fudge as a leading voice for working families and a longtime champion of affordable housing, infrastructure and other priorities, while Vilsack was selected in part because of the heightened hunger crisis facing the nation and the need to ensure someone was ready to run the department on day one, according to those briefed on the decision.

As news outlets started reporting Fudge's selection as HUD secretary, she said on Capitol Hill that it would be "an honor and a privilege"

to be asked to join Biden's Cabinet, though she didn't confirm she had been picked.

"It is something in probably my wildest dreams I would have never thought about. So if I can help this president in any way possible, I am more than happy to do it," she said Tuesday evening.

A longtime member of the House Agriculture Committee and a fierce advocate for food stamps, Fudge was originally discussed to become agriculture secretary. South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat who gave Biden a key nod of support in the primaries, had strongly backed her, saying, "It's one thing to grow food, but another to dispense it, and nobody would be better at that than Marcia Fudge."

But Clyburn on Tuesday telegraphed that she was up for another post. And she was warmly endorsed in a meeting Biden held



HOUSE TELEVISION/AP
Rep. Marcia Fudge



ANDREW HARNIK/AP
Tom Vilsack

with civil rights activists Tuesday to discuss diversity in his Cabinet.

But not every name mentioned was greeted as positively. Several of the civil rights leaders denounced Rahm Emanuel, the former Chicago mayor and chief of staff to President Barack Obama, for what they called his failed leadership during the 2014 police killing of Laquan McDonald and said he would be an unacceptable choice for any Cabinet post, according to a person familiar with the conversation but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Fudge's appointment would cut into the Democrats' slim majority in the House. And while her seat is considered safely Democratic, an election for her replacement may

be months off.

Her immediate priority would be dealing with the eviction crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

A federal eviction moratorium runs through the end of 2020. Even if it was extended, more than 23 million renters would face eviction unless they are able to come up with some help to pay months in back rent.

There is money for rental assistance in the current bipartisan COVID-19 relief effort. But most experts said Congress will have to do much more in terms of rental assistance and possibly working to extend the moratorium. Some expect the assistance could be needed for a year or two.

Biden's attorney general search focused on Jones, Garland

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alabama Sen. Doug Jones and federal appeals court judge Merrick Garland are emerging as the leading contenders to be nominated as President-elect Joe Biden's attorney general, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

A decision hasn't been finalized and the dynamics could shift in the coming days as Biden builds out his Cabinet with an eye to ensuring diverse leadership in the top ranks of his administration.

But Jones, who lost reelection last month, and Garland, whose Supreme Court nomination was

snubbed by Republicans, appear increasingly well positioned ahead of other rivals. Democrats are particularly concerned about the prospect of Biden nominating former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, fearing she could face a difficult confirmation in the Senate because of her role in issues related to the Russia investigation.

Biden's thinking was described by people with knowledge of the presidential transition's internal thinking who were not authorized to speak publicly. Andrew Bates, a representative for the transition, did not provide a comment for this story.

The president-elect is facing pressure to ensure that Black and Latino leaders are prominently positioned in his administration. He selected retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin this week to become the first Black secretary of defense.

Jones, who is white, has had a long-standing personal relationship with Biden dating back to Biden's first presidential campaign in 1988. The former U.S. attorney prosecuted members of the Ku Klux Klan who were responsible for a 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Ala., and later served as the U.S. attorney there from 1997 until 2001.

Biden met with civil rights activists on Tuesday to discuss diversity in his Cabinet. The Rev. Al Sharpton, who attended the meeting, encouraged Biden to select a Black attorney general but gave him room to select someone of another race as long as they had a background in civil rights.

"I said the least we could have is someone that has a proven civil rights background that's someone that's going to handle this heightened racist bigoted atmosphere," Sharpton told reporters.

It's unclear whether Garland would fit that standard as easily. He is an experienced judge with a reputation for moderation who

held senior positions at the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor of the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

The incoming attorney general would inherit a Justice Department that has endured a tumultuous four years and would likely need to focus on not only civil rights issues and an overhaul of national policing policies after months of mass protests over the deaths of Black Americans at the hand of law enforcement, but also on concerns from Democrats about politicization of the department in the Trump administration.

Deaths: Virus fatalities continue to rise ahead of expected approval of Pfizer vaccine

FROM PAGE 1

of COVID-19, 78-year-old former Alabama state Sen. Larry Dixon asked his wife from his hospital bed to relay a warning.

"Sweetheart, we messed up. We just dropped our guard ... We've got to tell people this is real," his friend, Dr. David Thrasher, a pulmonologist, quoted him as saying.

Although Dixon had been conscientious about masks and social distancing, he met up with friends at a restaurant for what they called a "prayer meeting," and three of them fell ill, Thrasher said.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus task force co-

ordinator, offered what sounded like a subtle rebuke of the way President Donald Trump and others in the administration have downplayed the disease and undercut scientists.

"Messages need to be critically consistent," Birx said Tuesday at a Wall Street Journal conference of CEOs. "I think we need to be much more consistent about addressing the myths that are out there — that COVID doesn't really exist, or that the fatalities somehow are made up, or the hospitalizations are for other diseases, not COVID, that masks actually hurt you."

On Thursday, a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel is

widely expected to authorize emergency use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, and shots could begin almost immediately after that. Britain on Tuesday started dispensing the Pfizer vaccine, becoming the first country in the West to begin mass vaccinations.

Still, any vaccination campaign will take many months, and U.S. health experts are warning of a continuing surge of infections in the coming weeks as people gather for the holidays.

California officials painted a dire picture as more than 22,000 residents test positive for the coronavirus each day, with about 12% inevitably showing up at hospitals in two to three weeks. They fear

the spike could soon overwhelm intensive care units. Southern California's Riverside University Health System Medical Center went so far as to open an ICU in a storage room.

For the sixth day in a row and 11 of the last 12 days, North Carolina hit new highs in the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19. The patient count has doubled over the past month to nearly 2,400.

In Georgia, the number of confirmed or suspected coronavirus infections has soared more than 70% in the past week, and hospitals are sounding alarms about their ability to absorb new COVID-19 patients.

The state is averaging more than 5,000 confirmed or suspected cases per day. Even then, Georgia ranks only 44th among the states for the most new cases per capita in the past 14 days because infections are spreading so rapidly everywhere else.

More than 2,500 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized Monday statewide. That's below the summer peak of 3,200 but more than double the most recent low point in mid-October.

"We are effectively reversing the gains we made after the summer surge," said Amber Schmidtke, an epidemiologist who does a daily analysis of Georgia's COVID-19 numbers.

NATION



BETH NAKAMURA, THE OREGONIAN/AP

Protesters who have camped for months to prevent a Black and Indigenous family from being forced to leave a home took the property back Tuesday after morning clashes with police, who said they were working to “re-secure” the foreclosed home.

Portland police clash with protestors in broad daylight

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Protesters outraged with the arrests of seven people at a home where a family was removed in September hurled rocks at officers, sprayed a fire extinguisher at them and damaged police vehicles on Tuesday.

The violence happened in broad daylight, and by evening, Mayor Ted Wheeler sent out a statement saying he was authorizing Portland Police “to use all lawful means to end the illegal occupation ... There will be no autonomous zone in Portland.”

“It’s time for the encampment and occupation to end,” Wheeler said in a statement that also acknowledged the issues the protesters want to fix, such as housing and health care. “There are many ways to protest and work toward needed reform. Illegally occupying private property, openly car-

rying weapons, threatening and intimidating people are not among them.”

The clash fits into a larger debate roiling in Oregon about whether state lawmakers should extend a pandemic-inspired moratorium on evictions that’s set to expire within weeks. Federal renter protections are also set to expire on Dec. 31 and housing advocates are worried that an end to those policies could lead to a huge wave of the newly homeless.

A group of activists for months have camped at the home dubbed “Red House on Mississippi” because it is on North Mississippi Avenue—to express their outrage against gentrification and the eviction of the Black and Indigenous family in September.

The Oregonian reported that the house had belonged to the Kinney family since the 1950s, ac-

cording to the website for the Red House on Mississippi group protesting the eviction.

The Kinneys paid off their house but took out a new mortgage to pay defense lawyers after a family member was arrested in 2002, the Red House on the Mississippi group has said. The house went into foreclosure and was sold to a developer at a 2018 auction, according to the group.

The family argued in court that the eviction moratorium in place until the New Year should apply to their case, but a judge in September found it did not apply because their struggles began before the pandemic struck.

The property’s owner complained that people were trespassing and officers showed up before dawn and made the arrests. TV images showed the clashes Tuesday morning.

Minneapolis eyes deep police cuts after Floyd’s death

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis City Council members who tried unsuccessfully to dismantle the police department in response to George Floyd’s death are voting Wednesday on whether to shrink it, a move that could imperil the entire city budget because the mayor is threatening to use his veto in order to protect public safety amid soaring crime rates.

The plan, which supporters call “Safety for All,” is the latest version of the “defund the police” movement that Minneapolis and other cities have considered since Floyd’s May 25 death ignited mass demonstrations against police brutality and a nationwide reckoning with racism.

Eleven of the 13 council members have already cast committee votes in favor of the largest parts of the plan, signaling that passage is likely. It would cut nearly \$8 million from Mayor Jacob Frey’s \$179 million policing budget and redirect it to mental health teams, violence prevention programs and other initiatives.

“I am actively considering a veto due to the massive, permanent cut to officer capacity,” Frey said in a statement Monday night. Reducing the authorized size of the force by 138 officers before enacting alternatives is “irresponsible,” he said.

Cities around the United States, including Los Angeles,

New York City and Portland, Ore., are shifting funds from police departments to social services programs in an effort to provide new solutions for problems traditionally handled by police. Such cuts have led some departments to lay off officers, cancel recruiting classes or retreat from hiring goals.

In Minneapolis, violent crime rates have surged since the death of Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed and pleading for air for several minutes while Derek Chauvin, a white former officer, pressed his knee against his neck. Chauvin and three others were charged in Floyd’s death and are expected to stand trial in March.

Police have recorded 532 gunshot victims this year as of last Thursday, more than double over the course of the same period from a year ago. Carjackings have also spiked to 375 so far this year, up 331% from the same period last year. Violent crimes have topped 5,100, compared with just over 4,000 for the same period in 2019.

“This summer happened because George Floyd was murdered by the Minneapolis Police Department and it wasn’t an accident, it’s because the system of policing we know now is not just racist, but it doesn’t create safety for all,” said Oluchi Omeaga, a co-founder of Black Visions, which supports “Safety for All” as a step toward more transformational change.

Legal panel recommends freeing man jailed for life as teenager

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A national panel of legal experts recommended the immediate release of a Black man sentenced to life in prison as a teenager nearly two decades ago.

The panel also said Minneapolis police appear to have suffered from “tunnel vision” while investigating the case of Myon Burrell, who was convicted of killing a little girl hit by a stray bullet in 2002. In addition, the panel said, among the other serious flaws in the high-profile case, police ignored witnesses and evidence that might have helped eliminate Burrell as a suspect.

The panel, which was created to examine Burrell’s conviction and sentence, released its report Tues-



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Myon Burrell sits inside his cell at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Stillwater.

day. Many of its findings mirrored those uncovered by an Associated Press and APM Reports investigation earlier this year. They included unreliable testimony from the sole eyewitness, a heavy reliance on jailhouse informants who received “extraordinarily generous” sentence reductions in ex-

change for their testimonies and a failure to retrieve surveillance video from a corner store — footage that Burrell, now 34, has always maintained would have cleared him.

The eight-member panel was unable to address Burrell’s guilt or innocence, saying its work was hampered by Hennepin County Prosecutor Mike Freeman’s failure to provide all of the evidence the panel requested. It recommended that the case be handed over to the state’s new conviction review unit for further investigation, noting that the missing police and prosecution files, witness interviews, tape recordings and details about deals cut with jailhouse informants “may yield new evidence of actual innocence or due

process issues.”

In the meantime, the panel members said they supported Burrell’s release from prison, noting his age at the time of the crime, that he had no prior record and that he behaved well behind bars. They pointed out that the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years has argued against overly harsh sentences for juveniles, saying their brains and decision-making skills are not fully developed.

“The extensive work of this outstanding legal panel supports the immediate release of Myon Burrell,” said Nekima Levy Armstrong, who heads the Minneapolis-based Racial Justice Network, adding that the case “represents everything that is wrong with the criminal justice system and the

ease with which an innocent person can be convicted.”

Laura Nirider, co-director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University, and Barry Scheck, co-founder of the national Innocence Project, served as advisors to the panel, which included a former state attorney general, a former federal prosecutor, a member of the country’s first conviction integrity unit, and the past president of the national Innocence Network.

Burrell’s case will be brought before the Minnesota Board of Pardons next week. Whatever it decides, Burrell’s lawyer, Dan Guerrero, said he will continue to fight in court, arguing that Burrell is innocent and deserves a full exoneration.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ID of man who found treasure chest revealed

WY CHEYENNE — A grandson of Forrest Fenn has confirmed that a medical school student from Michigan found an over \$1 million treasure chest that the retired art and antiques dealer stashed in the wilds of Wyoming over a decade ago.

Jonathan “Jack” Stuef, 32, found the treasure in June, Fenn's grandson, Shiloh Forrest Old, posted on a website dedicated to the treasure.

Fenn, who was also a decorated U.S. Air Force fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, left clues to finding the treasure in a poem in a memoir entitled “The Thrill of the Chase.”

A court order in a federal lawsuit against the Fenn estate prompted Stuef to identify himself to writer Daniel Barbarisi, who'd been in touch with Stuef for a book he has been working on. Barbarisi identified Stuef in an article published in Outside Magazine.

Fenn's grandson, Old, also cited the lawsuit as a reason for confirming Stuef's identity. In the lawsuit, a woman who believed the treasure was hidden in New Mexico claims the finder succeeded by hacking her texts and emails, Barbarisi wrote.

Brewery releases beer honoring Biden

DE WILMINGTON — A brewery in Delaware is making a beer that honors President-elect Joe Biden and his long association with Amtrak.

The News Journal in Wilmington reported that Wilmington Brew Works released its new IPA this week.

The beer is called “Rail Car One: Wilmington to Washington.” Biden has long been known for commuting on Amtrak during his decades as a U.S. senator.

The brewery tweeted that its first batch had sold out.

Ironically, Biden doesn't drink beer. He's well known as a life-long teetotaler.

Gun sales rising amid fears of more regulation

MD BALTIMORE — Gun sales are booming in Maryland.

The Baltimore Sun reported that Maryland has seen a more than 76% spike in background checks this year compared to last year.

This number doesn't represent the number of actual gun sales. But it's a sign of the growing demand for firearms. Background checks have been up 49% nationwide.

Carroll County gun store owner Dan Hartman said the increase is due to the uncertainty people feel about the coronavirus pandemic as well as frequent protests in major cities.



JOE CAVARETTA, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

Power rowing

Jo Wagenhals of Pompano Beach Ocean Rescue took advantage of blustery conditions to get in some rough water training in a dory.

Former governor weds staffer 41 years his junior

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Former Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton announced that he has married one of his gubernatorial campaign staffers.

Posting on Facebook, Dayton, 73, said he wed Ana Orke, 32, who worked on his campaign in 2010.

Acknowledging the age gap of more than four decades, Dayton said the two “realized that the love binding” them “is far deeper and more meaningful than the years that separate” them.

Dayton, the 40th governor of Minnesota from 2011 to 2019, says the two ran into each other a couple years ago in Minneapolis and the “rest is happy history.”

Man bitten by shark at popular surfing spot

OR SEASIDE — A surfer in Seaside was bitten by a shark and suffered non-life-threatening injuries to his lower leg.

The incident took place in a popular surfing spot in South Seaside known as The Cove, near Tillamook Head, according to Jon Rahl, a spokesman for the City of Seaside, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Seaside Fire and local medics arrived at the scene to find the adult male victim being carried to the parking lot by fellow surfers. An

THE CENSUS

3K The approximate number of miles on the odometer of a Pennsylvania town's new patrol car when it was totaled in a crash with a drunken driver, Police Chief Dan Spizarny said. He told Erie News Now one of his officers was driving when a van came speeding toward the rear of the patrol car. The chief said the driver tried to swerve, but hit the patrol car. The 27-year-old woman who was driving will be charged with DUI, he said.

off-duty Seaside lifeguard had applied a field tourniquet to the man's leg to help slow the bleeding.

The victim was transferred to the trauma unit of the local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

7 men indicted after 2018 dog fight

GA DUBLIN — Seven men were indicted after a dog fight in middle Georgia was broken up in March 2018.

The federal prosecutors said the owner of the fighting site and five people accused of participating have been charged with felonies.

The owner, James “Pookie” Lampkin, 45, of Eastman, was charged with conspiracy to violate the Animal Welfare Act and 63 counts of possession and training a dog for animal fighting. That's one count for each of the 63 dogs seized on his property.

Officials identified the men while performing traffic stops after a dog fight was reported near Eastman. Officers found a dog in a vehicle that appeared to have been injured in a fight. The 63 dogs were seized at Lampkin's house, found

chained in the back yard.

All the dogs except one diagnosed with cancer were adopted after being legally seized.

Fire destroys antique-filled building

ND FARGO — It took three hours for firefighters to control a blaze that destroyed a Fargo building filled with antiques.

The three-alarm fire at Reinhardt Auction required assistance from firefighters in nearby West Fargo and Moorhead, Minn.

Fargo Fire Marshal Ryan Erickson says the large amount of antiques in the building made the blaze difficult to fight. Witnesses said flames were visible on the roof of the building.

The owner, Gary Reinhart, is an auctioneer.

13 sickened by carbon monoxide at home

TN CLEVELAND — Thirteen people exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide were treated at a Tennessee hospital, officials said.

Emergency crews were originally called to a home in Bradley County for a potential stroke victim, Bradley County Fire Chief and EMS Director Shawn Fairbanks told news outlets. Several family members who lived nearby crowded into the home while officials were still on scene and shortly afterward, everyone inside began complaining of weakness, dizziness and nausea, Fairbanks said.

Bradley County Fire Rescue found high levels of carbon monoxide in the home and ventilated it with electric fans.

Meanwhile, three EMS workers and 10 others were treated for carbon monoxide sickness, Fairbanks said.

2 injured after chairlift detached from line

WA CHEWELAH — Two people were injured after a chairlift detached from its line at an eastern Washington ski resort, according to a news release from the resort.

The Bellingham Herald reported a chair carrying two people broke from the lift line on Chair 1 at 49 Degrees North Mountain Resort in Chewelah, the release said.

Ski patrol immediately attended to the guests who fell and escorted them to the patrol room, the release said. They sustained minor injuries, according to the release.

NATION

Cybersecurity firm says it was hacked by nation state

Associated Press

BOSTON — Prominent U.S. cybersecurity firm FireEye said Tuesday that foreign government hackers with “world-class capabilities” broke into its network and stole offensive tools it uses to probe the defenses of its thousands of customers, who include federal, state and local governments and top global corporations.

The hackers “primarily sought information related to certain government customers,” FireEye CEO Kevin Mandia said in a statement, without naming them. He said there was no indication they got customer information from the company’s consulting or breach-response businesses or threat-intelligence data it collects.

FireEye is a major cybersecurity player — it responded to the Sony and Equifax data

breaches and helped Saudi Arabia thwart an oil industry cyberattack — and has played a key role in identifying Russia as the protagonist in numerous aggressions in the netherworld of global digital conflict.

Neither Mandia nor a FireEye spokeswoman said when the company detected the hack or who might be responsible. Many in the cybersecurity community suspect Russia.

“I do think what we know of the operation is consistent with a Russian state actor,” said former NSA hacker Jake Williams, president of Rendition Infosec. “Whether or not customer data was accessed, it’s still a big win for Russia.”

FireEye’s Mandia said he had concluded that “a nation with top-tier offensive capabilities” was behind the attack.

The stolen “red team” tools — which amount to real-world malware — could be dangerous in the wrong hands.

FireEye said there’s no indication they have been used maliciously. But cybersecurity experts say sophisticated nation-state hackers could modify them and wield them in the future against government or industry targets.

The hack was the biggest blow to the U.S. cybersecurity community since a mysterious group known as the “Shadow Brokers” in 2016 released a trove of high-level hacking tools stolen from the National Security Agency. The U.S. believes North Korea and Russia capitalized on the stolen tools to unleash devastating global cyberattacks.

FireEye has been at the forefront of investigating state-backed hacking groups, in-

cluding Russian groups trying to break into state and local governments in the U.S. that administer elections.

It was credited with attributing to Russian military hackers mid-winter attacks in 2015 and 2016 on Ukraine’s energy grid. Its threat hunters also have helped social media companies including Facebook identify malicious actors.

FireEye said it is investigating the attack in coordination with the FBI and partners including Microsoft, which has its own cybersecurity team. Mandia said the hackers used “a novel combination of techniques not witnessed by us or our partners in the past.”

Matt Gorham, assistant director of the FBI’s cyber division, said the hackers’ “high level of sophistication (was) consistent with a nation state.”

Research: Millions of smart devices vulnerable to hacking

Associated Press

BOSTON — Researchers at a cybersecurity firm say they have identified vulnerabilities in software widely used by millions of connected devices — flaws that could be exploited by hackers to penetrate business and home computer networks and disrupt them.

There is no evidence of any intrusions that made use of these vulnerabilities. But their existence in data-communications software central to internet-con-

nected devices prompted the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to flag the issue in an advisory.

Potentially affected devices from an estimated 150 manufacturers range from networked thermometers to “smart” plugs and printers to office routers and healthcare appliances to components of industrial control systems, the cybersecurity firm Forescout Technologies said in a report released Tuesday. Most affected are consumer devices including

remote-controlled temperature sensors and cameras, it said.

In the worst case, control systems that drive “critical services to society” such as water, power and automated building management could be crippled, said Awais Rashid, a computer scientist at Bristol University in Britain who reviewed the Forescout findings.

In its advisory, CISA recommended defensive measures to minimize the risk of hacking. In particular, it said industrial control systems should not be accessi-

ble from the internet and should be isolated from corporate networks.

The discovery highlights the dangers that cybersecurity experts often find in internet-linked appliances designed without much attention to security. Sloppy programming by developers is the main issue in this case, Rashid said.

Addressing the problems, estimated to afflict millions of devices, is particularly complicated because they reside in so-called open-source software, code freely

distributed for use and further modification.

If unfixed, the vulnerabilities could leave corporate networks open to crippling denial-of-service attacks, ransomware delivery or malware that hijacks devices and enlists them in zombie botnets, the researchers said. With so many people working from home during the pandemic, home networks could be compromised and used as channels into corporate networks through remote-access connections.

ENTER TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD!



M • O • N • T • H • L • Y

TRIVIA

ENTER CONTEST! TO WIN

ONE WINNER EVERY MONTH!



GO TO 75.STRIPES.COM TODAY!



Memories with STARS AND STRIPES Pacific


Share your Memories with Stars and Stripes Pacific!

Your photos/stories will appear on the Stars and Stripes Pacific 75th Anniversary Website, 75.stripes.com.




ANNOUNCING THE BEST OF 2020

Your votes. Your favorites. Your Best of the Pacific.



STARS AND STRIPES

View the digital edition or download now



WORLD

Tides flood Venice as dike-on-demand was not activated

Associated Press

High tides flooded St. Mark's Square in Venice on Tuesday, propelled by winds that were stronger than predicted, and an experimental system of inflatable barriers wasn't activated to prevent water from invading the lagoon city.

The system, while still in an experimental phase, gets activated when high tides are predicted to reach at least 4 feet, 4 inches. Tuesday's tide was predicted to reach about 4 feet, 1 inch. Instead, it kept rising to a height of 4 feet, 6 inches in late afternoon.

Some shops were flooded, and Venetians waded in water as they scrambled to set out raised walkways. Damage to shops and other business was destined to com-

pound the suffering already sharply felt in Venice's economy by tourism largely washed away by the pandemic.

"Unfortunately, the weather is freer than us. It does what it wants," Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said ruefully, referring to the stronger-than-expected winds that whipped across the Adriatic from Croatia's coastline.

In July, Venice successfully carried out a trial run of the ambitious anti-flood system, which consists of 78 barriers that can be inflated when needed to rise from the sea like a kind of dike-on-demand. The system is dubbed Moses after the Biblical figure, who, in the Old Testament account, parted the waters of the Red Sea.

Just over a year ago, Venice ex-



ANTEO MARINONI, L'ESPRESSO/AP

People wade their way in flooded St. Mark's Square following a high tide, in Venice, Italy, on Tuesday.

perienced its worst flooding in more than 50 years when the water reached 6.5 feet in the city.

The new moveable barrier system is designed to protect the city from tides as high as about 10 feet.

A tide of 4 feet was predicted for Wednesday, and workers were arriving to prepare to activate the barrier system hours before then, the mayor said.

"We're working to activate Moses tonight in view of the peak prediction for tomorrow (Wednesday)," Brugnaro said. The barriers would likely be activated shortly after midnight, he said.

India experts find traces of lead, nickel in patients' blood

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Indian health officials have found traces of nickel and lead in a few blood samples taken from hundreds of patients who have been hospitalized by a mysterious illness in a southern state, officials said.

The Andhra Pradesh state government said in a statement Tuesday night that investigations by experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has not been able to ascertain the possible source of excessive nickel and lead particulate matter in the patients' blood.

Reports from other tests by experts at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, including toxicology reports and blood cultures, are being awaited, the statement said.

Health officials and experts are still baffled by how the heavy metals got into the patients' blood, and whether it is indeed the cause of the mysterious illness that has left over 585 people hospitalized and one person dead in Andhra Pradesh. The illness was first detected Saturday evening in Eluru, an an-

cient city famous for its hand-woven products.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy held a virtual meeting Wednesday with officials who included experts from India's top scientific institutes. Reddy said 502 people with the illness were discharged after showing improvement.

What is confounding experts is that there doesn't seem to be any common link among the hundreds of people who have fallen sick. All of the patients have tested negative for the coronavirus and other viral diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and herpes. The patients aren't related to each other and don't all live in the same area. They're from different age groups, including about 70 children, but very few are elderly.

Initially, contaminated water was suspected. But the chief minister's office confirmed that people who don't use the municipal water supply have also fallen ill, and that initial tests of water samples didn't reveal any harmful chemicals.

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	U.S.A. +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	--

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation
944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri

0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de

Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

No one covers the bases the way we do.



Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
 Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
 croley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 slavin.erik@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
 Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380
Washington
 Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)886-0033
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
 Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
 robert.w.reismann.naf@mail.mil
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 DSN (314)583-9111
Europe
 Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
 lewis.karen@stripes.com
 memberservices@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090
Pacific
 Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: (+1)202.886.0003
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050
Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com
Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

OPINION

Biden bends a campaign pledge

BY DANIEL W. DREZNER
Special to The Washington Post.

Over the past five weeks, Joe Biden has navigated the tricky waters of being president-elect during a pandemic — with a toddler for a president — exceptionally well. He managed Trump’s efforts to subvert the presidential succession with aplomb, acting like the adult in the room and showing impressive patience when warranted. He has announced a bevy of White House staffers and Cabinet secretaries who are noteworthy in how much experience they possess, compared with the crew of impostors currently running the executive branch. Even the inauguration plans seem to be going well — traveling by train from Delaware is vintage Biden and the kind of retail move that helps explain why he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris received more than 81 million votes.

Earlier this week, however, it was widely reported that Biden had selected retired four-star Gen. Lloyd Austin to be his secretary of defense. In doing so, Biden is putting his most important campaign promise in jeopardy. He is also worsening a civil-military situation that was already not good.

To be clear, this is not a knock on Austin, who by all accounts had a distinguished military career. Politico reported that “in picking Austin, Biden has chosen a barrier-breaking former four-star officer who was the first Black general to command an Army division in combat and the first to oversee an entire theater of operations.” Furthermore, “Biden also trusts Austin, as they worked together when Biden served as vice president and had a large foreign policy portfolio.” These are not insignificant points in Austin’s favor.

The problem with this selection is two-fold, however. The first is that Biden ran explicitly on a platform of restoring American norms and values. That was at the core of his announcement speech. In accepting his party’s nomination last August, he said: “Character is on the ballot,” adding, “I take very personally and I have the profound re-

sponsibility of serving as commander in chief.” In his first speech after winning the presidency, he said, “I sought this office to restore the soul of America ... We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.” Biden made other campaign promises, but his central one was a return to normalcy from the norm-shredding Age of Trump.

In picking Austin, however, Biden is, well, following Trump’s lead in breaking a pretty important norm. Austin only retired in 2016, meaning he has not been out of the military for the required seven years, requiring Congress to approve a waiver. They have only done so twice before: for George Marshall and Trump’s first secretary of defense, Jim Mattis. As my Washington Post colleagues report, “Austin’s selection will prompt a congressional debate over whether enough lawmakers would support a waiver from a law that mandates that any service member must be out of uniform for at least seven years before being eligible to serve as defense secretary. The law is meant to ensure civilian control of the military.”

It’s that last sentence that keeps gnawing at me. Even before he is sworn in, Biden is bending an important norm. Another worrisome quote comes from Politico’s story: “the Biden team saw Austin as the safe choice, said one former defense official close to the transition, adding that the retired general is believed to be a good soldier who would carry out the president-elect’s agenda.”

Presidents should expect their defense secretary to, in the end, follow their orders — but also to act as an independent voice of caution when the president wants to use the military in questionable ways. Mattis struggled in the role because he still identified himself as a Marine general, and there was widespread criticism of how he staffed the civilian side of the Office of Secretary of Defense. There are legitimate concerns that Austin, whose entire adult life until 2016 was spent in the Army, will suffer from the

same flaw. The larger problem is the signal that appointments such as Mattis’ and Austin’s send to ambitious national security folks. Back in 2016, my concern was that the more retired generals received senior political appointments as civilians, the greater incentive uniformed officers had to curry favor with politicians — in other words, to act politically. I wrote: “In the long term, it is dangerous to signal that the best way to become secretary of state is to have achieved the rank of a general officer ... Diplomats, intelligence officials and even out-and-out politicians bring other points of view to the table. A team of generals might be talented, but it’s also one-dimensional.”

In the four years since, my concerns have not abated — indeed, the opposite is true. Trump flouted a lot of civil-military norms. Experts on civil-military relations are now concerned, to say the least. The politicization of the retired general officer corps is a growing problem. This has not stopped president-elect Biden’s reliance on retired generals to service his transition. Retired generals have earned the nation’s respect, but they desperately need to be acclimated to civilian life before being asked to run a large government bureaucracy that does not consist solely of uniformed soldiers.

Perhaps I am overreacting. Trump’s generals served him poorly for myriad reasons; it is possible, indeed even likely, that Austin is made of sterner stuff. Equally important is that Biden is not Trump. I do not fret about a president Biden trying to use the uniformed services to, say, disperse a peaceful protest.

Still, this move cuts against Biden’s core promise during the campaign to restore the soul of America. Part of that soul is civilian control over the military. There is a reason that the seven-year rule was put in place. In breaking that norm, Joe Biden forces me to worry about what other norms he will leave broken in the wake of Trump.

Drezner is a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

McConnell, McCarthy watch as Trump burns democracy

The Washington Post

In the days after President Donald Trump lost his bid for reelection, congressional Republicans argued for patience as he denied the results. Allowing Trump to exhaust his legal challenges would promote faith in the outcome, they said. Giving the president time to process his defeat would encourage a smooth transition.

Five weeks on, Trump has instead entrenched the lie that the election was stolen, with polls showing that many GOP voters believe him. Worse: Trump has progressed from lying about the result to adopting the tactics of a tinpot authoritarian, trying to overturn a free and fair election by pressuring and corrupting voting officials. It is beyond The Washington Post’s understanding how Republicans who claim to believe in democracy, such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, can remain silent. The president is incinerating belief in American democracy,

and almost the entire leadership of the Republican Party is complicit.

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a Republican, on Monday recertified Biden’s victory in his state, after three counts. Enough states have certified their votes to give Biden an electoral college majority. Trump’s evidence-free lawsuits have been thrown out of court, and the legislative hearings his lawyers staged were so absurd they literally drew laughs.

Yet Trump spent the weekend ranting that “you can’t ever accept when they steal and rig and lie” to chants, at a Georgia rally, of “Stop the steal!” He called Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, pressing him to convene a special session of the legislature to award the state’s electors to Trump.

Kemp refused, saying that doing so would be illegal. It is telling that Kemp did not point out that overturning the people’s choice would also be morally repugnant. Even so, Kemp’s refusal to advance Trump’s illegal scheme took more back-bone than most national Republicans have

displayed. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., backed Trump in a Sunday debate, selling out democracy in an attempt to keep the GOP base riled for her runoff election next month. Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., who is also running in next month’s runoff, has joined Loeffler in attacking Georgia state officials who have refused to aid Trump in upending the vote. A Post survey of every Republican member of Congress found only 27 who were willing to admit that Biden won the election. Two actually said Trump won. The remaining 220 mostly avoided responding. “The future will take care of itself,” McConnell said last week, avoiding reporters’ questions about Trump’s claims of fraud. His complacency and that of so many others as the president seeks to discredit a national election discredits them and threatens grave damage to the government’s legitimacy. It also increases the likelihood that a future would-be authoritarian will more successfully abuse cracks in the system, now that they are so visible.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH
FREE TRIAL

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

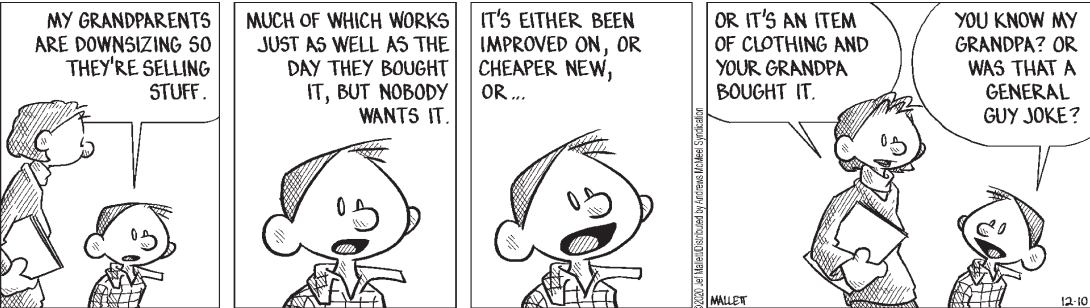
- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!

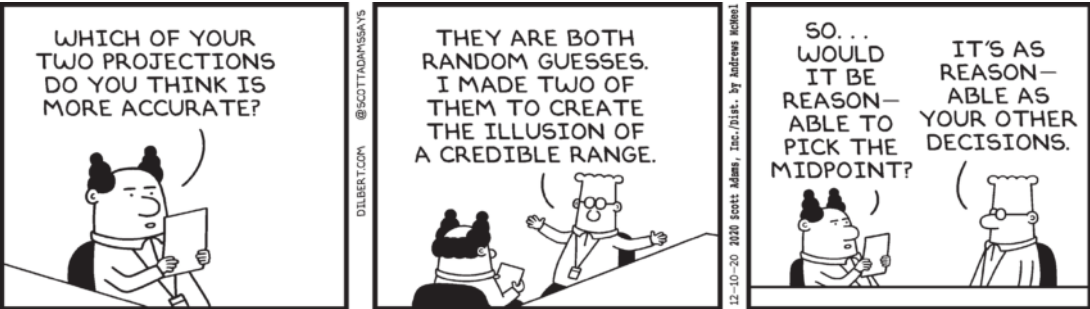


stripes.com/subscribe

Frazz



Dilbert



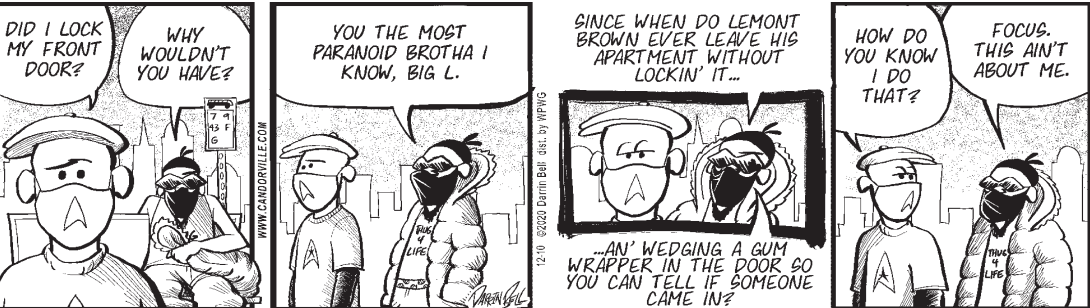
Pearls Before Swine



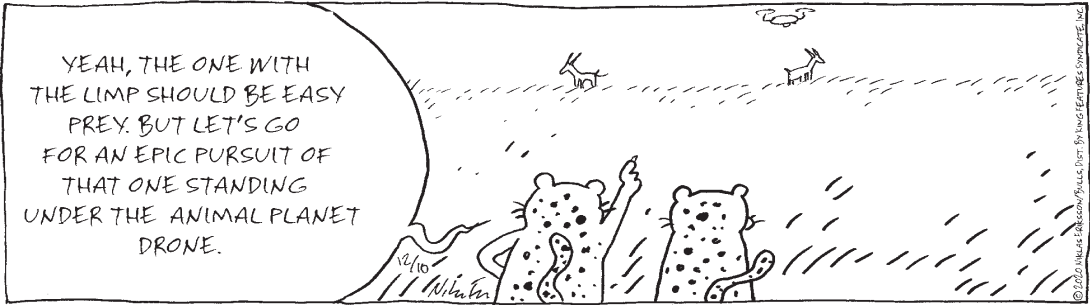
Non Sequitur



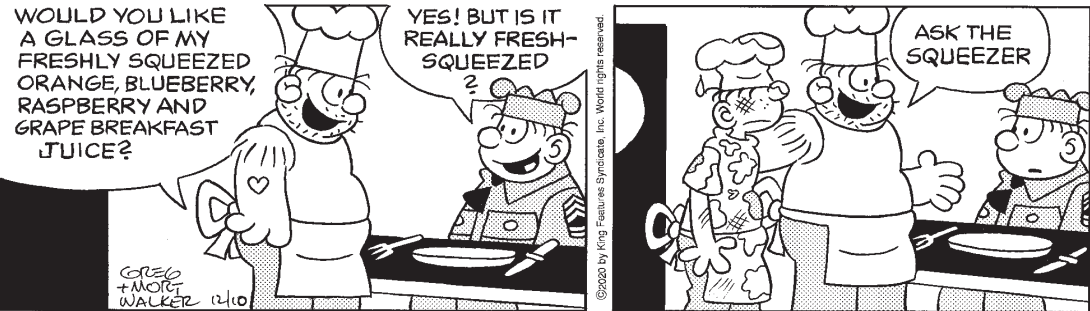
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
- 1 Lobbyists' org.
4 Refer to
8 Junk email
12 Swelled head
13 Winnebago owner, briefly
14 In — land
15 Italian noblewoman
17 Woolly moms
18 Sticky stuff
19 True-blue
21 President Ford
24 Scrap
25 Enzyme ending
26 Dawn goddess
28 Spassky's game
32 Lip
34 Bankroll
36 Blue material?
37 Overly aggressive
39 Director Craven
41 Mouths (Lat.)
42 — Lingus
44 Like "it"
46 Ice cream parlor orders
50 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
51 Crunchy cookie
52 Annual December barhopping tour
56 Explode, as a volcano
- DOWN
- 57 French 101 verb
58 Mine yield
59 Taxpayer IDs
60 Put on
61 Cagers' gp.
21 React in horror
22 Birthright barterer
23 Part of DJIA
27 Cutting tool
29 Cyberspace wink, e.g.
30 "Absolutely!"
31 Luminary
33 Follows secretly
35 Lair
38 Pro vote
40 Hunting dog
43 Darn again
45 Ms. Thurman
46 Weeps
47 Web addresses
48 Inert gas
49 Glut
53 Gun lobby org.
54 Sphere
55 PBS funder

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	E	P		J	U	D	O		O	P	A	L
M	C	I		A	K	I	N		N	I	C	E
O	R	T		V	E	S	T		M	E	N	T
G	U	A	V	A				O	B	I		
				I	S	E	E		A	L	T	E
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S		L	E	T	O
G	O	V		A	C	H	O	O		R	A	T
A	B	I	T		S	O	L	V	E	N	T	S
D	E	L	I	S		S	E	E	P			
				N	A	G			R	A	N	U
C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	S		A	B	A
N	A	T	E		T	A	R	A		L	E	G
N	E	A	L		S	H	A	W		A	R	E

12-10 CRYPTOQUIP

X YJ DSXOW LNZE NL TWYMXZH

J XEEKW WYIOWMZ MNGR

HMNSBI. XZ BYMOXGSKYM, X

KXRW OTW DYOYM INKNI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HABITUALLY CLENCH YOUR HANDS IN BED AT NIGHT, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE SLEEPING FISTFULLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Q

Get the news
that matters to you,
from the source you trust.



Daily Headlines | Veterans News | Military History | and more

Sign up now for Stars and Stripes FREE eNewsletters

STARS AND STRIPES® stripes.com/newsletters

FACES

Billie's blue notes

Streaming documentary offers eyes-wide-open look at the darker side of singer Holiday's life

By **HOWARD REICH**
Chicago Tribune

Billie Holiday's tumultuous life story surely has been told more often, in more ways, than that of any other female jazz singer. Books, films, plays, articles — the avalanche was underway long before her death in 1959 at age 44. The combination of a singular art and a dramatic narrative (complete with prostitution, drug abuse, crime, imprisonment and more) never seems to lose its drawing power. Which may make the prospect of another Holiday documentary seem redundant. Yet "Billie," written and directed by James Erskine and streaming now, takes us deeper and more unflinchingly than most into the darker corners of Holiday's life. The film also offers a most unusual and fascinating approach, interweaving Holiday's epic tale with a smaller but similarly disturbing one: the life and death of a writer on whose mountain of recorded interviews the film is based. "In the early hours of February 6th, 1978, the body of a young journalist was discovered on a street in Washington, D.C.," reads

a supertitle at the film's start. "Her name was Linda Lipnack Kuehl. For the past decade, she'd devoted her life to uncovering the true story of legendary singer Billie Holiday." Of course, there is no one story of Holiday or any other artist. Instead, these great figures invite endless contemplation, especially as new information emerges. Writer Kuehl contributed more than her share, through the audio interviews excerpted in the film. Though Holiday's prostitution in her youth is well known, for instance, we learn how she viewed this part of her autobiography toward the end of her life. "She would call me up, maybe 3, 3:30, 4 o'clock in the morning," says pianist Memry Midgett in one of Kuehl's recorded interviews. "It seemed like she was almost hallucinating. And she would say: 'Oh, I'm here all by myself.'" "Like she would talk to me for hours and tell me about how she got started in prostitution. She was 13 years old ... (eventually) she had her own girls on the street. She was terribly worried about whether or not God would forgive her." Holiday went on to become a

legendary jazz singer, of course, routinely getting involved with men who abused her, among them a manager. Even after a triumphant 1950s Carnegie Hall concert — years after Holiday's conviction and imprisonment for narcotics possession — she was pummeled by a future husband. Lest all this seem relentlessly bleak, the film also offers illuminating video clips of Holiday performances, plus analysis from the likes of Tony Bennett, Sylvia Syms and lesser-known artists Kuehl interviewed. Amid all this material, meticulously edited to intertwine Holiday's and Kuehl's stories, we also encounter Holiday's own words as recorded by others. "I always wanted to sing like Louis Armstrong played," says Holiday in one segment. "I always wanted to sing like an instrument." Asked by one interviewer why so many jazz greats die young, Holiday summed it up as well as anyone: "The only way I can answer that question is: We try to live 100 days in one day. I myself have tried to please so many people. I guess we all suffer."



HULTON ARCHIVE/TNS

American singer Billie Holiday performs with an orchid in her hair in the early 1950s. Holiday's travails are given a fresh perspective in the new documentary "Billie," streaming now.

Fans, Ono, bandmates mark Lennon anniversary

Associated Press

Fans remembered John Lennon with flowers, candles and songs Tuesday, the 40th anniversary of the former Beatle's death after being shot outside his New York City apartment building. In Central Park's Strawberry Fields section, which is steps from where he was shot and is dedicated to Lennon, photos of the icon ringed the inlaid "Imagine" mosaic, along with a magazine, a small tree and other memorabilia, as musicians played nearby. It was Dec. 8, 1980, when the musician was with his wife, Yoko Ono, and was shot by Mark David Chapman outside the Dakota apartments on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Chapman remains in prison. The anniversary was marked on social media by Ono, and by Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Items are left at Strawberry Fields to remember John Lennon on Tuesday in New York. The former Beatle was murdered outside his apartment building on Dec. 8, 1980. surviving members of the Beatles. George Harrison died in 2001. "The death of a loved one is a hollowing experience. After 40 years, Sean, Julian and I still miss him," Ono said, referring to Lennon's sons. She also highlighted the toll of gun violence, posting an image of Lennon's bloody eyeglasses and listing the number of people she said have been killed by guns in the U.S. since his death. McCartney and Starr posted images of them in their younger days with Lennon.

SiriusXM, Stern extend deal

Associated Press

Howard Stern has reached a five-year deal with SiriusXM to continue making his show for the satellite radio company through the end of 2025. Terms were not disclosed. Forbes magazine has reported that Stern was making \$90 million a year. "Now that I can work from home, I simply don't have an excuse to quit," Stern, 66, said in announcing the deal on his show Tuesday. Sirius had 600,000 subscribers when Stern announced in 2004 he was leaving over-the-air radio to join the company, and he started in 2006. The company has nearly 35 million subscribers now, and Stern is clearly the marquee talent. The deal also gives SiriusXM exclusive rights to Stern's audio and video library through 2032. Stern has two separate channels on SiriusXM, and his empire has expanded to include video content. Once best known as a shock jock, Stern has developed into one of the sharpest interviewers in the business. **Obama, Patti Smith among PEN America honorees** Artists, activists and a former president gathered online for PEN America's annual gala, held virtually this year because of the pandemic.



Stern

Those honored by the literary and human rights organization included the Chinese organizer and dissident Xu Zhiyong; Darnella Frazier, the teenager who taped the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police; and Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who was a key witness during the impeachment of President Donald Trump. PEN also presented a literary service prize to Patti Smith, who sang the ballad "Build a Peaceable Kingdom," and the Voice of Influence Award to former President Barack Obama, whose memoir "A Promised Land" came out last month. **Other news** ■ Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Soderbergh is going behind the scenes for the next Academy Awards. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Tuesday that Soderbergh, "Erin Brockovich" producer Stacey Sher and awards show veteran Jesse Collins have come on board to produce the 93rd Oscars telecast. The 93rd Academy Awards were delayed two months earlier this year because of COVID-19's effects on the film industry, but the show will still be televised live on ABC on April 25. ■ "Pose" star Billy Porter will join Ryan Seacrest and Lucy Hale on ABC in Times Square on Dec. 31 for Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2020. The broadcast is closed to the public due to the pandemic.



MILITARY MATTERS



A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST



Every controversial topic
has two sides.
We look into the ones
that matter to you.

New episodes available now

LISTEN NOW

Available on



at **Stripes.com/podcasts**

Sponsored by



COLLEGE BASKETBALL



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / AP

Iowa guard Jordan Bohannon passes ahead of North Carolina guard R.J. Davis, left, during the No. 3 Hawkeyes' 93-80 defeat of the No. 16 Tar Heels on Tuesday in Iowa City, Iowa.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Bohannon scores 24, leads No. 3 Iowa past No. 16 UNC

Associated Press
IOWA CITY, Iowa — Jordan Bohannon said he could have been much better.
Given what he's been through in the last year, he'll take the night he had on Tuesday.
Bohannon scored 24 points to lead four players in double figures for No. 3 Iowa, and the Hawkeyes beat No. 16 North Carolina 93-80 in an ACC/Big Ten Challenge game.
Bohannon had scored 11 points in Iowa's first three games this season. But he got hot from three-point range, making 7 of 16 attempts, and converted his only shot from inside the arc.
"I didn't think I shot the ball well," Bohannon said. "I hit some pretty big shots. But I still thought I had an off day."
"He's been shooting it that way every day," Iowa coach Fran

McCaffery said. "If he gets open shots, he's going to make them. I don't care who we play. That's the way he is."
Bohannon had surgeries on both hips last year, one during the summer. The second one ended his season in December.
No. 6 Illinois 83, No. 10 Duke 68: Ayo Dosunmu scored 18 points and the Illini shot 58% to win a top-10 matchup in Durham, N.C., in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.
Kofi Cockburn added 13 points for Illinois (4-1), which jumped to a 14-2 lead and never looked back. It led by 14 at halftime and didn't let the margin slip below double figures after the break, handing the Blue Devils their second non-conference home loss in a week while playing without their famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium crowd.

No. 12 Tennessee 56, Colorado 47: The host Vols (1-0) didn't get their first player into double figures until less than a minute remained when John Fulkerson hit two free throws to reach 11 points. Santiago Vescovi also scored 11.
Penn State 75, No. 15 Virginia Tech 55: Izaiah Brockington scored a career-high 24 points in the Nittany Lions' lopsided road win.
No. 21 Rutgers 79, Syracuse 69: Ron Harper Jr. scored 26 points and the host Scarlet Knights took over a close game down the stretch in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.
No. 22 Ohio State 90, Notre Dame 85: E.J. Liddell led five Buckeyes players in double figures with 19 points as they rallied from 11 points down on the road and held off the Fighting Irish in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Wilson shines as No. 5 Kansas tops No. 8 Creighton

Redshirt freshman has 23 points, game-winning three

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press
LAWRENCE, Kan. — Jalen Wilson remained composed when he needed to hit the go-ahead three-pointer for Kansas in the closing seconds.
He was equally stoic watching No. 8 Creighton try to match him.

"I just had a lot of confidence in myself."
Jalen Wilson
Kansas forward

The redshirt freshman calmly hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 42 seconds left Tuesday night, only to foul the Bluejays' Marcus Zegarowski attempting a tying three at the other end. But as Wilson watched, the preseason Big East player of the year missed the last of three foul shots, allowing the fifth-ranked Jayhawks to escape with a 73-72 win.
"I just had a lot of confidence in myself. My team has a lot of confidence in me," said Wilson, who missed most of last season with an injury. "We told each other, 'We're going to win this game. We're going to win this game.'"
Wilson finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds, his role of hero solidified, thanks to Zegarowski's miss. Christian Braun added 14 points, missing a foul shot that could have clinched the game with 12.5 seconds to go, while David McCormack contributed 13 points as Kansas (5-1) won its fifth straight against Creighton.
"To have their best player miss one late, yeah, we were fortunate. Very fortunate," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said. "But the game should have never been in that situation, even though it was a great game and either team could have won. We had a chance to put ourselves in a position where that wouldn't happen and we screwed

it up."
Denzel Mahoney gave the Bluejays (3-1) a chance down the stretch. He hit a three-pointer with 1:22 left to get them within 70-68, then picked the pocket of Bryce Thompson and coasted for the tying layup with just over a minute to go.
That's when Wilson drilled his three off a nifty kick-out from McCormack, and Zegarowski missed an answering three as Braun gathered the rebound and was fouled. But the sharpshooter missed the front end of a one-and-one, giving Creighton a chance to tie. Zegarowski unloaded his attempt and Wilson got the slightest bit of arm.
Zegarowski hit the first free throw. And the second. The third clanked off the rim.
"It was a hell of a college basketball game and kind of unfortunate that somebody had to lose. Really unfortunate that it was us," Bluejays coach Greg McDermott said. "Really proud of our team, proud of how we competed."
Zegarowski finished with 16 points, though he was hounded by defensive whiz Marcus Garrett and was 5-for-14 from the floor. Mahoney led Creighton with 19 points while Christian Bishop and Damien Jefferson had 13 each.

We've got deals everyday now through December 15th!

Check back daily to save and grab a great deal on your next Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep or Ram vehicle.

Stop by our location on base or visit [militaryautosource.com/12 days](https://militaryautosource.com/12-days) to reveal the deal of the day.

Each offer is only valid for the day it is announced. Ask a Sales Representative for details. Overseas Military Sales Corporation is an authorized contractor of the Exchange and NEXCOM. Military AutoSource is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by the Exchange, NEXCOM, DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (C5682)

COLLEGES

Little movement in CFP rankings

Iowa State moves up 2 spots to No. 7, teams Nos. 1-6 stay in place

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

For the third straight week, Alabama, Notre Dame, Clemson and Ohio State held on to the top four spots in the College Football Playoff rankings.

The selection committee's second-from-last rankings had only a little movement in the top 10. Texas A&M is still fifth and Florida held at sixth.

Iowa State moved up a couple of spots to seventh after earning a spot in the Big 12 title game. Cincinnati slipped a spot to eighth after an idle week because of COVID-19 issues in the program.

The Bearcats also will not play this week against Tulsa, the committee's 24th-ranked team. Those two schools are scheduled to meet Dec. 19 in the American Athletic Conference title game.

Ohio State is also currently without a game this weekend after Michigan had to cancel because of a COVID-19 outbreak.

The Buckeyes had to cancel their game two Saturdays ago because of their own virus issues. Last week they beat Michigan State 52-12 without more than a dozen scholarship players, including three starting offensive linemen.

"That certainly got our attention," selection committee chairman Gary Barta said.

Georgia is ninth and Miami is 10th.

Coastal Carolina, coming off a big victory against BYU, jumped five spots to No. 13.

Two hats

Barta is also the athletic director at Iowa, a member of the Big Ten.

The Big Ten currently has a bit of a dilemma on its hands. Ohio State (5-0) might not play enough games to be eligible to play in the Big Ten championship game.

As part of his real job, Barta will meet with his colleagues in the Big Ten on Wednesday, a regularly scheduled meeting. Barta said he does not know the agenda of that meeting and declined to speculate, but it doesn't seem to be a stretch to think that Ohio State's situation will come up.

Should the Big Ten try to shuffle this week's schedule to get Ohio State an opponent? Should the ADs who made the minimum



MATTHEW HINTON / AP

Alabama wide receiver DeVonta Smith blows kisses to the stands after a touchdown during his team's win Saturday at LSU.

games rule way back in the summer when the conference first started altering its schedule to deal with the pandemic simply change the rule to let Ohio State play for the title?

Or keep it the way it is and match up Ohio State with the second-best team in the West Division, likely Iowa, on the weekend of Dec. 19 while Northwestern and Indiana play in the Big Ten championship game?

That's if Indiana can play. The Hoosiers paused team activities Tuesday because of COVID-19 cases.

The Big Ten ADs not only have to figure out what is fair to Ohio State and the rest of the conference, they also must consider how best to protect the integrity and value of their league championship game.

College Football Playoff Rankings

Dec. 8		Record
1. Alabama		9-0
2. Notre Dame		10-0
3. Clemson		9-1
4. Ohio State		5-0
5. Texas A&M		7-1
6. Florida		8-1
7. Iowa State		8-2
8. Cincinnati		8-0
9. Georgia		6-2
10. Miami		8-1
11. Oklahoma		7-2
12. Indiana		6-1
13. Coastal Carolina		10-0
14. Northwestern		5-1
15. USC		4-0
16. Iowa		5-2
17. North Carolina		7-3
18. BYU		9-1
19. Louisiana-Lafayette		9-1
20. Texas		6-3
21. Colorado		4-0
22. Oklahoma State		6-3
23. NC State		8-3
24. Tulsa		6-1
25. Missouri		5-3

The playoff semifinals match the No. 1 seed vs. the No. 4 seed, and No. 2 will face No. 3. The semifinals will be hosted at the Sugar Bowl and Rose Bowl on Jan. 1, 2021. The championship game will be played on Jan. 11, 2021 at Miami Gardens, Fla.



MARK J. TERRILL / AP

NCAA President Mark Emmert said the pandemic has forced college athletics to be flexible and that flexibility needs to carry over after the pandemic.

Emmert: NCAA must stay open to reform for survival

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — NCAA President Mark Emmert hopes lessons learned through navigating the pandemic will lead college sports leaders to be more open to future reform and to prioritize opportunities for athletes when it comes time to cut costs.

In a 25-minute interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Emmert said the NCAA and its member schools have shown an uncommon ability to be nimble and responsive in addressing issues of eligibility, scheduling, recruiting, transfers and conducting championship events.

"We've done a whole array of things, many of which member schools in the past have said, 'No, no, no, we can't do that. That's not right.' Well, we're doing it. And the sporting world hasn't collapsed," Emmert said. "And so can we as we move forward, say, well, why can't we continue to do that? Why can't we continue to provide more flexibility? Why can't we continue to think more creatively about scheduling models and about the way we run a variety of elements of the associations?"

He added: "I'm hoping that that those lessons aren't lost."

It has been a grim 2020 for college sports just the same. Between the cancellation of last season's lucrative NCAA basketball tournaments and the loss of football ticket revenue because of limited attendance, athletic departments have been forced to make steep cuts.

Ohio State, for example, has made plans to lose more than \$100 million, cutting wages and jobs, but not teams. Other schools plan

"I'm hoping that those lessons aren't lost."

Mark Emmert
NCAA president

to eliminate sports, including Iowa and Stanford, which plans to drop 11 programs from one of the largest athletic departments in the country.

At lower levels, Furman discontinued its baseball team and Akron got rid of cross country. Dozens of programs have been cut as budgets have been slashed.

"I know everybody's got difficult financial decisions to make. We had to make a lot inside the national office. But trying to support these students in as many ways as we possibly can has really been the hallmark of all of this," Emmert said. "Because when you look at how the schools have stepped up with their health and safety support for students, it's been pretty remarkable. It's been extensive. It's been hard, but it's been remarkable. We need to say, 'OK, if we can do that, why can't we do these other things?'"

South Carolina last month fired football coach Will Muschamp at a cost of about \$12 million to buy out the remainder of his contract. That move came after the athletic department implemented furloughs to address an expected \$50 million in lost revenue. There is also speculation about the future of Texas football coach Tom Herman, whose buyout with his staff would be more than \$20 million.

"The pandemic and the finan-

cial struggles that have come with that, even at very, very well-financed schools makes those choices clearer and a little more stark," Emmert said of the large buyouts that have become common in major college football. "And I hope that causes folks to think longer and harder about those kind of allocation decisions. And that's not to be critical of South Carolina or Texas or anybody else. That's just to say that we need to be clear among ourselves as to why we're engaged in this activity and what we are trying to accomplish collectively and individual institutions."

Recently, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an advocacy group, proposed removing the highest level of Division I football, known as the Bowl Subdivision, from the NCAA structure. It recommended the creation of the National College Football Association, an independent body to oversee FBS.

Major college football, the commission concluded, has created inequities across all NCAA sports.

Emmert called the recommendation "exactly the wrong thing to do." He said he agrees football has "an outsized influence" over college sports.

"But that's a reflection of the popularity of that particular sport," he said. "And changing the organizational structure of football won't modify that demand. So when there's a proposal to just say, well, let's change the organization of football, move it away from all the rest of sports, somehow that will change the decision making around football. It's very unlikely to happen that way. It's very likely to have the opposite effect."

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	333	306	
Miami	8	4	0	.667	303	212	
New England	6	6	0	.500	274	255	
N.Y. Jets	0	12	0	.000	180	353	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	328	273	
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	359	326	
Houston	4	8	0	.333	288	323	
Jacksonville	1	11	0	.083	251	352	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Pittsburgh	11	1	0	.917	334	211	
Cleveland	9	3	0	.750	306	321	
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	316	231	
Cincinnati	2	9	1	.208	237	308	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Kansas City	11	1	0	.917	370	254	
Las Vegas	7	5	0	.583	323	347	
Denver	4	8	0	.333	225	320	
L.A. Chargers	3	9	0	.250	277	345	
National Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	231	265	
Washington	5	7	0	.417	264	260	
Philadelphia	3	8	1	.292	253	307	
Dallas	3	9	0	.250	268	393	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-New Orleans	10	2	0	.833	347	241	
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	344	280	
Atlanta	4	8	0	.333	311	302	
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	280	300	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	379	299	
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	319	329	
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	246	284	
Detroit	5	7	0	.417	286	358	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	301	243	
Seattle	8	4	0	.667	353	321	
Arizona	6	6	0	.500	332	296	
San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	285	288	
x-clinched playoff spot							
y-clinched division							
z-clinched first round bye							
*-clinched home-field advantage							
Tuesday's game							
Baltimore 34, Dallas 17							
Thursday's game							
New England at L.A. Rams							
Sunday's games							
Arizona at N.Y. Giants							
Dallas at Cincinnati							
Denver at Carolina							
Houston at Chicago							
Kansas City at Miami							
Minnesota at Tampa Bay							
Tennessee at Jacksonville							
Indianapolis at Las Vegas							
N.Y. Jets at Seattle							
Atlanta at L.A. Chargers							
Green Bay at Detroit							
New Orleans at Philadelphia							
Washington at San Francisco							
Pittsburgh at Buffalo							
Monday's games							
Baltimore at Cleveland							
Thursday, Dec. 17							
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas							
Saturday, Dec. 19							
Buffalo at Denver							
Carolina at Green Bay							
Sunday, Dec. 20							
Chicago at Minnesota							
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants							
Detroit at Tennessee							
Houston at Indianapolis							
Jacksonville at Baltimore							
New England at Miami							
Seattle at Washington							
Tampa Bay at Atlanta							
Philadelphia at Arizona							
Kansas City at New Orleans							
San Francisco at Dallas							
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Rams							
Monday, Dec. 21							
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati							

Ravens' ground game overwhelms Cowboys

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Back in action after a 15-day layoff, Lamar Jackson directed a relentless rushing attack that the Baltimore Ravens hope will be the first big step in a run to the playoffs.

Jackson ran for 94 yards and a touchdown, and the Ravens returned from a COVID-19 outbreak to amass 294 yards rushing in a 34-17 rout of the Dallas Cowboys on Tuesday night.

Playing for the first time since Nov. 22 following a positive test for the potentially deadly virus, Jackson carried 13 times and threw for two scores. He was one of 23 Baltimore players to spend time on the reserve/COVID-19 list while four strains of the virus swept through the organization.

“I still can’t really taste or smell, but I’m good,” Jackson said. “I feel good to be back with my guys. It was like two weeks I ain’t seen them.”

Although the Ravens still have a half-dozen players on the COVID-19 list, the team felt complete for the first time in weeks.

“It’s like when you go on a fam-



TERRANCE WILLIAMS / AP

Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson runs for a first-half touchdown during Tuesday's game against the Dallas Cowboys in Baltimore.

ily vacation and one of your family members get sick and you can’t bring them,” rookie linebacker Patrick Queen said. “You’re down in the dumps.”

The game was played on Tuesday night because Baltimore’s previous game — against Pittsburgh last Wednesday — was pushed back three times while the Ravens had at least one player test

positive for 10 consecutive days.

Gus Edwards ran for 101 yards on just seven carries and rookie J.K. Dobbins — who also missed time on the COVID-19 list — added 71 yards rushing and a TD to help Baltimore (7-5) break a three-game skid and stay alive in its quest to reach the postseason for a third straight year.

“It’s a win we really, really had

Ravens 34, Cowboys 17									
Dallas	3	7	0	7	—	17			
Baltimore	7	10	7	10	—	34			

First quarter	
Dal—FG Zuerlein 31, 4:21.	
Bal—Jackson 37 run (Tucker kick), :25.	
Second quarter	
Dal—Gallup 13 pass from Dalton (Zuerlein kick), 14:19.	
Bal—Boykin 38 pass from Jackson (Tucker kick), 8:08.	
Bal—FG Tucker 35, :46.	
Third quarter	
Bal—M.Brown 20 pass from Jackson (Tucker kick), 4:40.	
Fourth quarter	
Bal—FG Tucker 22, 8:15.	
Dal—Cooper 2 pass from Dalton (Zuerlein kick), 3:59.	
Bal—Dobbins 5 run (Tucker kick), 2:08.	
A—0.	

	Dal	Bal
First downs	29	19
Total Net Yards	388	401
Rushes-yards	28-111	37-294
Passing	277	107
Punt Returns	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns	4-126	1-28
Interceptions Ret.	1-3	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	31-48-1	12-17-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	0-0
Punts	1-47.0	1-34.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-58	4-23
Time of Possession	32:26	27:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING —Dallas, Elliott 18-77, Pollard 8-22, Cooper 1-10, Dalton 1-2. Baltimore , Edwards 7-101, Jackson 13-94, Dobbins 11-71, Ingram 6-28.	
PASSING —Dallas, Dalton 31-48-1-285. Baltimore , Jackson 12-17-1-107.	
RECEIVING —Dallas, Gallup 7-86, Lamb 6-46, Cooper 5-43, Schultz 4-44, Elliott 4-18, N.Brown 3-40, Pollard 1-6, Bell 1-2. Baltimore , M.Brown 5-39, Ricard 2-11, Boykin 1-38, Willson 1-12, Hill 1-4, Duvernay 1-2, Ingram 1-1.	
MISSED FIELD GOALS —Dallas, Zuerlein 53, Zuerlein 52, Zuerlein 40. Baltimore , Tucker 36.	

to have. It was a must-win,” coach John Harbaugh said. “Running game was excellent. That was the key on offense.”

Threat: hopes fading fast for Dallas, Philadelphia

FROM PAGE 24

Philadelphia (3-8-1) doesn't have it easy trying to end a four-game losing streak and is making a bold move in that effort by benching quarterback Carson Wentz in favor of rookie Jalen Hurts.

The Eagles play the Saints at home Sunday, then visit Arizona to finish what could be a five-game stretch against teams with winning records if the Cardinals beat the Giants on Sunday.

New York's four-game winning streak is its longest since 2016, the last time the Giants made the playoffs. With quarterback Daniel Jones expected to rest his injured hamstring another week, Colt McCoy should get the nod again after beating Seattle for just his second win in his eighth start since 2014.

Washington is on its third quarterback in former starter Alex Smith, playing for the first time in two years after a career-threatening leg injury. Smith has Washington on a three-game winning streak, capped by a drive to a tie-breaking field goal late against the Steelers.

Dallas (3-9) was all but removed from the conversation with its sixth loss in seven games, 34-17 at Baltimore on Tuesday night. The Cowboys have the worst record in the NFC, and the most realistic path to the playoffs would be tying the Giants at the top with a season sweep of New York, their opponent in the finale.

NFC North

Green Bay (9-3) has a three-game lead over Minnesota with four to go and is currently the

No. 2 seed in the NFC. Three of the Packers' opponents currently have losing records.

The Vikings (6-6) hold the last of the seven playoff spots in the NFC right now with a big opportunity to put a tighter grip on that spot if they can beat Tom Brady at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

New Orleans is also on the schedule, so Minnesota could be looking at must wins against division rivals Chicago and Detroit, the two NFC North teams with losing records at the moment.

The Bears (5-7) have lost six in a row since a 5-1 start, putting Matt Nagy on the coaching hot seat after the Lions (5-7) already fired Matt Patricia.

NFC South

What looked like a duel between the Brady-led Buccaneers and Drew Brees' Saints for the division title — and possibly that lone first-round bye — has faded with three losses in four games by Tampa Bay (7-5).

Meanwhile, the division lead for the Saints (10-2) has grown to three games because they're doing the same thing they did last year: win without Brees.

Teddy Bridgewater went 5-0 a year ago, and Taysom Hill has won his first three starts since Brees left a 27-13 win over San Francisco on Nov. 15 with broken ribs and a collapsed lung. New Orleans has won nine straight games since a 1-2 start.

Atlanta (4-8) has been better since getting buried by an 0-5 start that included the firing of

coach Dan Quinn. Carolina (4-8) has been without star running back Christian McCaffrey for nine games because of ankle and shoulder injuries in coach Matt Rhule's first season.

NFC West

It's still the NFC's best division, but the struggles of the Seahawks and Cardinals have changed things some.

The Los Angeles Rams have won three out of four to get even atop the division with Seattle, which is 3-4 since the first 5-0 start in franchise history.

The Rams have the tiebreaker at the moment by virtue of their 23-16 win over the Seahawks, so their rematch in the second-to-last week of the season looms large. If Seattle wins Dec. 27, the subsequent tiebreakers of division records and records with other common opponents are a tossup right now.

With three consecutive losses and four in the past five games, Kyler Murray and the Cardinals (6-6) suddenly find themselves as the first team out of the playoff picture, losing at the moment to the Vikings on the common opponent tiebreaker.

San Francisco (5-7), the defending NFC champion, hasn't been able to dig out of last place in the difficult division the past two months. An uplifting win over the Rams two weeks ago was followed by a decisive loss to Buffalo on Monday night. The game was moved to Arizona because of coronavirus restrictions in the 49ers' home county.

SPORTS



Same song, same verse
Tide lead same six teams atop CFP rankings » **Page 22**



STEPHEN BRASHEAR / AP

Backup quarterback Colt McCoy, left, guided the New York Giants to a victory over Seattle last weekend and should get the start again this week, his ninth since 2014.

NFL

Becoming a threat?

NFC East may make noise in playoffs

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

The NFC East suddenly doesn't look so bad, with the New York Giants and Washington tied for the division lead coming off road victories against teams that qualify for the conversation about the Super Bowl.

The Giants, who beat Seattle on Sunday, control their fate because they swept Washington, and could become the first team to make the playoffs after starting 1-7. Wash-

ington is also 5-7 after handing Pittsburgh its first loss Monday night.

Those were the first two victories over opponents with winning records this season for the only division in the NFL without a winning team.

But the NFC East winner will get a home game in the first round of the playoffs, expanded by one team in each conference because of the pandemic.

The altered format also means just one first-round bye, currently held by New Orleans (10-2), the only NFC team to clinch a

postseason berth thus far.

A division-by-division look at the NFC playoff race going into the final quarter of the season:

NFC East

Hopes are fading for Dallas and Philadelphia after entering the season as the teams that figured to battle for the NFC East title. They have one win between them since the Eagles beat the Cowboys on Nov. 1.

SEE THREAT ON PAGE 23



JOHN BAZEMORE / AP

New Orleans quarterback Taysom Hill has won his first three starts since regular starter Drew Brees was injured. The Saints sit atop the NFC South at 10-2.

No. 5 Kansas edges No. 8 Creighton » College basketball, Page 21

