WASHINGTON — Newly confirmed Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will have to contend not only with a world of security threats and a massive military bureaucracy, but also with a challenge that hits closer to home: rooting out racism and extremism in the ranks.

Austin took office Friday as the first Black defense chief, in the wake of the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, where retired and current military members were among the rioters touting far-right conspiracies.

The retired four-star Army general told senators this week that the Pentagon's job is to "keep America safe from our enemies. But we can't do that if some of those enemies lie within our own ranks."

"I don't think that this is a thing that you can put a Band-Aid on and fix and leave alone."

Lloyd Austin
Defence Secretary

For 1st Black Pentagon chief, racism hits close to home

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

"We all want to put this awful chapter in our nation's history behind us," Schumner said about the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol siege by a mob of pro-Trump supporters.

"But healing and unity will only come if there is truth and accountability. And that is what this trial will provide."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will send the article of impeachment late Monday, with senators sworn in as jurors Tuesday. But opening arguments will move to February.

Trump's impeachment trial would be the first of a U.S. president to begin after leaving office.
Mixed finish on Wall Street as rally pauses

Associated Press

as Wall Street tapped the brakes on its recent record-setting rally Friday with a mixed finish for the major stock indexes, though the S&P 500 still ended the week with its third weekly gain in four.

The benchmark index fell 0.3%, as Wall Street tapped the brakes on its recent record-setting rally this year. The uneven finish for U.S. stock indexes followed a slide in global markets that began in Asia amid worries about resurgent coronavirus cases in China and weak economic data from Europe. In the United States, disappointing earnings reports from IBM and some other companies gave cover for investors to sell and book profits after big recent gains.

“The big picture is, it’s still a pretty friendly environment for stocks,” said David Lefkowitz, head of Americas equities at UBS Global Wealth Management. “The pandemic will wind down, you’ll see a surge in corporate profits this year and the Fed made very clear they’re not going to take the punch bowl away anytime soon.”

The S&P 500 slipped 11.60 points, or 0.1%, to 13,543.06. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 129.03 points, or 0.6%, to 21,688.76. The Russell 2000 added 27.34 points, or 1.3%, to 2,168.76.

The Nasdaq eked out an eight-week streak, but notched a 1.9% gain for the week. The Nasdaq inched up 179.03 points, or 0.6%, to 30,996.98. The Russell 2000 added 27.34 points, or 1.3%, to 2,168.76.

Greater economic growth expectations amid expectations of stronger economic growth later this year.

The big picture is, it’s still a pretty friendly environment for stocks,” said David Lefkowitz, head of Americas equities at UBS Global Wealth Management. “The pandemic will wind down, you’ll see a surge in corporate profits this year and the Fed made very clear they’re not going to take the punch bowl away anytime soon.”

The S&P 500 slipped 11.60 points, or 0.1%, to 13,543.06. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 129.03 points, or 0.6%, to 21,688.76. The Russell 2000 added 27.34 points, or 1.3%, to 2,168.76.

The Nasdaq eked out an eight-week streak, but notched a 1.9% gain for the week. The Nasdaq inched up 179.03 points, or 0.6%, to 30,996.98. The Russell 2000 added 27.34 points, or 1.3%, to 2,168.76.
**Fort Hood’s top NCO reinstated to position**

**By Rose L. Thayer**

AUSTIN, Texas — The senior enlisted soldier at Fort Hood was cleared by an investigation into allegations that he used unprofessional language and was reinstated to his role as the command sergeant major of III Corps and Fort Hood, Army officials announced Friday.

The investigation into the behavior of Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur “Cliff” Burgoyne began last month after he allegedly spoke to subordinates in a manner that wasn’t appropriate of a corps-level noncommissioned officer. Army Forces Command, known as FORSCOM, completed its investigation Friday and determined “Burgoyne’s language was not unprofessional, and he did not exhibit counterproductive leadership.”

“Putting people first includes holding our leaders to a high standard,” said Gen. Michael Garrett, commander of FORSCOM. “Command Sgt. Maj. Burgoyne is a tough leader who cares about every soldier in his formation. I have faith in his leadership, and I know his soldiers are his top priority.”

The suspension was a temporary removal and not punitive in nature, FORSCOM said.

Lt. Gen. Pat White, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, said Burgoyne “cares deeply about soldiers” and about upholding Army standards. “He maintains my full trust and confidence,” White said.

The investigation into Burgoyne’s behavior was unrelated to a number of ongoing investigations at the base sparked by the disappearance and death of Spc. Vanessa Guillén, who was killed April 22 by a fellow soldier.

Burgoyne arrived at Fort Hood in July after serving as the senior NCO of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. He has deployed three times each to Iraq and Afghanistan, according to his official biography.

Burgoyne entered the Army in September 1986 with the Louisiana National Guard and became active duty at Fort Hood in December 1992. His awards include two Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star medals and a Ranger tab.

---

**Alaska Army base moves to reduce alcohol-related ills**

**By Wyatt Olson**

Stars and Stripes

The Army’s Fort Wainwright in Alaska will close the base’s shopette two hours earlier each night starting Monday with an aim to decrease drunken driving and other “harmful acts.”

The FWA Shopette at the Fairbanks base will close at 10 p.m. instead of midnight, though the gas pumps will remain open 24 hours a day, said Lt. Col. Catina Barnes, a spokeswoman for U.S. Army Alaska.

The earlier closing time comes a week after Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage banned the sale of alcohol on the installation between the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. A spokesman for the joint base told military.com last week that banning late-night sales was an “effective strategy” at reducing the risk of suicide, among other possible harms.

During the past four months, the Wainwright shopette has averaged about $300 in alcohol sales each night between 10 p.m. and midnight, Barnes said.

Studies have shown a link between late-night alcohol sales and “a significant increase in drunken driving, vehicle crashes, vehicle crash fatalities and other harmful acts,” she said. Studies have also found extended hours for alcohol sales “increased assaults resulting in hospitalization,” Barnes said.

In a study published in the journal Public Health Research and Practice in 2016, researchers concluded the “evidence of effectiveness is strong enough to consider restrictions on late trading hours for bars and hotels as a key approach to reducing late-night violence.”

The researchers reviewed 21 previous studies undertaken from 2005 to 2015 in Australia, Norway, Canada, Great Britain and the United States and most concluded reduced sales hours at night lowered rates of alcohol-related violence.

The Army in recent years has been grappling with issues of quality of life for soldiers in Alaska, issues of pain, sleeplessness and relationships.

In early 2020, the Army conducted a study searching for root causes, finding multiple risk factors that included coronavirus-related travel restrictions and cuts to mental health counseling, access to healthier foods and better fitness facilities.

---

**COVID-19 vaccination underway for US military in Afghanistan**

**By J.P. Lawrence**

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military began vaccinating personnel in Afghanistan against COVID-19 this week.

Doses of the Moderna vaccine arrived in theater Jan. 17 and 18 as U.S. troops stationed in America will get the Pfizer vaccine, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said in December before a Senate Armed Services Committee subpanel.

The plan is for overseas installations to receive the Moderna vaccine while troops stationed in America will get the Pfizer vaccine, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said in December before a Senate Armed Services Committee subpanel.
National Guard may stay in DC into March

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Several thousand National Guard troops could remain in D.C. through March 12, said Nahaku McFadden, a spokeswoman for the National Guard Bureau. The troops would come from volunteers among the about 25,600 troops who spent the last two weeks supporting the inauguration of President Joe Biden. Most remained in place through Friday, officials said.

About 15,000 of those troops were slated to begin returning home this weekend, Guard officials said Thursday.

The extensions also come amid some controversy. Images of Guard troops sleeping in a parking structure circulated online after they were removed from areas that they had been using to take rest breaks while working 12-hour shifts. Those troops have since been allowed back indoors “within congressional buildings, including the U.S. Capitol,” to take their on-duty breaks, Air Force Maj. Matthew Murphy, a National Guard spokesman, said in a statement issued Friday.

“We are ensuring we are following [coronavirus] protocols per the [National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines,” she said.

First lady Jill Biden thanks National Guard troops with chocolate chip cookies

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — New first lady Jill Biden took an unannounced detour to the U.S. Capitol on Friday to deliver baskets of using chocolate chip cookies to National Guard members, thanking them “for keeping me and my family safe” during President Joe Biden’s inauguration.

“I just want to say thank you from President Biden and the whole, the entire Biden family,” she told a group of Guard members at the Capitol. “The White House baked you some chocolate chip cookies,” she said, before joking that she couldn’t say she had baked them herself.

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the U.S. on Wednesday after Donald Trump supporters rioted at the Capitol in a futile attempt to keep Congress from certifying Biden as the winner of November’s presidential election. Extensive security measures were then taken for the inauguration, which went off without any major incident.

Jill Biden told the group that her late son, Beau, was a Delaware National Guard member who spent a year deployed in Iraq in 2008-09. Beau Biden died of brain cancer in 2015 at the age of 46.

“As I’m a National Guard mom,” she said, adding that the baskets were a “small thank you” for leaving their home states and coming to the nation’s capital.

President Biden offered his thanks to the chief of the National Guard Bureau in a phone call Friday.

“I truly appreciate all that you do,” the first lady said. “The National Guard will always hold a special place in the heart of all the Bidens.”

Jill Biden’s unannounced troop visit came after her first public outing as first lady.

She highlighted services for cancer patients at Whitman-Walker Health, a Washington institution with a history of serving HIV/AIDS patients and the LGBTQ community. The clinic receives federal money to help provide primary care services in underserved areas.

States to be repaid for Guard member use in virus fight

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — States will receive full reimbursement from the federal government for using National Guard troops in efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic through an executive order signed by President Joe Biden.

The policy change is just one of several ways that the Biden administration began to pivot from the former President Donald Trump’s approach to the pandemic. Since August, states only received 75% reimbursement for using troops on federally approved missions to combat the virus.

The order also allows reimbursement for emergency supplies and the personnel and equipment needed to create vaccination centers, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Thursday.

The policy change is needed because of the spread and shifting nature of the virus,

As of Friday, more than 22,600 National Guard troops were deployed across the country on coronavirus-specific missions, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Some of the coronavirus missions have included working in food banks, manning testing sites, helping process unemployment benefits and distributing personal protective equipment. Troops also now help states administer the coronavirus vaccine through mobile clinics for specific locations such as nursing homes and mass drive-thru operations.

To be eligible for reimbursement, the Federal Emergency Management Agency must approve the use of National Guard for missions. Guard members then serve in a status known as Title 32, which allows governors to remain in control of troops though funding for them comes from the federal government.

The states provides Guard troops with additional federal benefits and pay, such as education and health care benefits, a housing allowance, and benefits associated with retirement.
Personal: Austin grapples with racism

only priority. Austin, who was confirmed in a 93-2 vote, has made clear that accelerating delivery of coronavirus vaccines will get his early attention.

The urgency for Democrats to move quickly through process

A recent Air Force inspector general report found that Black service members in the Air Force are far more likely to be investigated, arrested, faced disciplinary actions and be discharged for misconduct.

Based on 2018 data, roughly two-thirds of the military's enlist corps is white and about 17% is Black, but the minority percentage declines as rank increases. The U.S. population overall is about three-quarters white and 13% Black, according to Census Bureau statistics.

Over the past year, Pentagon leaders have struggled to make changes, hampered by opposition from then-President Donald Trump. It took months for the department to effectively ban the Confederate flag last year, and Pentagon officials left to Congress the matter of forming military bases that honor Confederate leaders. Trump rejected renaming the bases and defended flying the flag.

Senators peppered Austin with questions about extremism in the ranks and his plans to deal with it. The hearing was held two weeks after lawmakers flew the deadly insurrection at the Capitol, in which many of the rioters espoused separatist or extremist views.

"It's clear that we are at a crisis point," said Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., saying leaders must root out extremism and reaffirm core military values.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., pressed Austin on the actions he will take. "Disunity is probably the most destructive force in terms of our ability to defend ourselves," Kaine said. "If we're divided against one another, how can we defend the nation?"

Austin, who broke racial barriers throughout his four decades in the Army, said military leaders must set the right example to discharge for and look for signs of extremism or other problems, he said.

But Austin — the first Black man to serve as head of U.S. Central Command and the first to be the Army's vice chief of staff — also knows that much of the solution must come from within the military services and lower-rank commanders. They must ensure their troops are trained and aware of the prohibitions.

"Most of us were embarrassed that we didn't know what to look for and we didn't really understand that by being engaged more with your people on these types of issues can pay big dividends," he said, recalling the 82nd Airborne problems. "I don't think that you can ever take your hand off the steering wheel here."

But he also cautioned that there won't be an easy solution, adding, "I don't think that this is a thing that you can put a Band-Aid on and fix and leave alone. I think that training needs to go on, routinely."

Austin gained confirmation after clearing a legal hurdle prohibiting anyone from serving as defense chief until they have been out of the military for seven years. Austin retired less than five years ago, but the House and Senate quickly approved the needed waiver, and President Joe Biden signed it Friday.

Soon afterward, Austin strode into the Pentagon, his afternoon already filled with calls and briefings, including a meeting with Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He held a broader video conference on COVID-19 with all top defense and military leaders, and his first call to an international leader was with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Austin, 67, is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He helped lead the invasion into Iraq in 2003, and eight years later was the top U.S. commander there, overseeing the full American troop withdrawal. After serving as vice chief of the Army, Austin headed Central Command, where he oversaw the reininsertion of U.S. troops to Iraq to beat back Islamic State militants.

He describes himself as the son of a postal worker and a home-front worker from Thompsville, Ga., who will speak his mind to Congress and to Biden.
Dems reining in expectations for immigration bill

By Alan Fram  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It’s taken only days for Democrats gauging how far President Joe Biden’s bold immigration proposal can go in Congress to acknowledge that if anything emerges, it will likely be significantly more modest.

As they brace to tackle a politically flammable issue that’s resisted major congressional action since the 1980s, Democrats are using words like “aspirational” to describe Biden’s plan and “herculean” to express the effort they’ll need to prevail.

A similar message came from the White House Friday when press secretary Jen Psaki said the new administration hopes Biden’s plan will be “the base” of immigration discussions in Congress.

Democrats’ cautious tones underscore the fragile road they face on a paramount issue for their minority voters, progressives and activists.

Even long-time immigration proponents advocating an all-out fight concede they may have to settle for less than total victory.

Paving a path to citizenship for all 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally — the centerpiece of Biden’s plan — is “the stake at the summit of the mountain,” Frank Sharry, executive director of the pro-immigration group America’s Voice, said in an interview. “If there are ways to advance toward that summit by building victories and momentum, we’re going to look at them.”

The citizenship process in Biden’s plan would take as little as three years for some people, eight years for others. The proposal would make it easier for certain workers to stay in the U.S. temporarily or permanently, provide development aid to Central American nations in hopes of reducing immigration and move toward bolstering border screening technology.

No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois said in an interview this week that the likely package to emerge would create a path to citizenship for so-called Dreamers. They are immigrants who’ve lived in the U.S. most of their lives after being brought here illegally as children.

“We understand the political reality of a 50-50 Senate, that any changes in immigration will require cooperation between the parties,” said Durbin, who is on track to become Senate Judiciary Committee chairman. He said legislation produced by the Senate likely “will not reach the same levels” as Biden’s proposal.

The Senate is split evenly between the two parties, with Vice President Kamala Harris tipping the chamber in Democrats’ favor with her tie-breaking vote. Even so, major legislation requires 60 votes to overcome filibusters, or endless procedural delays, in order to pass. That means 10 Republicans would have to join all 50 Democrats to enact an immigration measure, a tall order.

“Passing immigration reform through the Senate, particularly, is a herculean task,” said Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., who will also play a lead role in the battle.

Many Republicans agree with Durbin’s assessment.

“I think the space in a 50-50 Senate will be some kind of DACA deal,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who’s worked with Democrats on past immigration efforts. “I just think comprehensible immigration is going to be a tough sale given this environment.”

Biden faced with choice of bipartisanship or full relief bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden’s ambitious opening bid, his $1.9 trillion American Rescue economic package, will test the new president’s relationship with Congress and force a crucial choice between his policy vision and a desire for bipartisan unity.

Biden became president this week with the pandemic having already forced Congress to approve $4 trillion in aid, including $900 billion just last month. And those efforts have politically exhausted Republican lawmakers, particularly conservatives who are panning the new proposal as an expensive, unworkable liberal wish-list.

Yet, Democrats, now with control of the House, Senate and White House, want the new president to deliver ever more sweeping aid and economic change.

On Friday, Biden took a few beginning steps, signing executive orders at the White House. But he also declared a need to do much more and quickly, saying that even with decisive action the nation is unlikely to stop the pandemic in the next several months and well over 600,000 could die.

“The bottom line is this: We are in a national emergency. We need to act like we’re in a national emergency,” he said. “So we got to move with everything we got. We’ve got to do it together. I don’t believe Democrats or Republicans are going hungry and losing jobs. I believe, Americans are going hungry and losing jobs.”

The limits of what Biden can achieve on his own without Congress was evident in the pair of executive orders he signed Friday.

The orders would increase food aid, protect job seekers on unemployment, make it easier to obtain government aid and clear a path for federal workers and contractors to get a $15 hourly minimum wage.

Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, called the orders a “critical lifeline,” rather than a substitute for the larger aid package that he said must be passed quickly.

All of this leaves Biden with a decision that his team has avoided publicly addressing, which is the trade-off ahead for the new president. He can try to appease Republicans, particularly those in the Senate whose votes will be needed for bipartisan passage, by sacrificing some of his agenda. Or, he can try to pass as much of his proposal as possible on a party-line basis.

Well aware of all that, Biden is a seasoned veteran of Capitol Hill deal-making and has assembled a White House staff already working privately with lawmakers and their aides to test the bounds of bipartisanship.

On Sunday, Deese, will meet privately with a bipartisan group of 16 senators, mostly centrists, who were among those instrumental in crafting and delivering the most recent round of COVID aid.

The ability to win over that coalition, led by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., will be central to any path, a test-run for working with Congress on a bipartisan basis.

“All new COVID relief package must be focused on the public health and economic crisis at hand,” Collins said in a Friday statement.

She said she looks forward to hearing more about “the administration’s specific proposals to assist with vaccine distribution, help keep our families and communities safe, and combat this virus so our country can return to normal.”

The Biden team’s approach could set the tenor for the rest of his presidency, showing whether he can provide the partisan healing that he called for in Wednesday’s inaugural address and whether the narrowly split Senate will prove a trusted partner or a roadblock to the White House agenda.

“The ball will be in Biden’s court to decide how much he is going to insist on and at what cost,” said William Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. “As the old saw goes, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.”
Community activists have organized protests calling for independent investigations as Sheriff Alex Villanueva has repeatedly resisted the Board of Supervisors’ attempts at oversight even as a county-appointed watchdog group called for his resignation.

While Becerra would not identify any specific incidents, the attorney general urged Los Angeles County residents to report potential abuses to his office. Though Becerra stressed that the probe is civil in nature and not a criminal investigation, he said his investigators had reviewed enough reports and evidence to reach a point where “we believed it was necessary to move forward” with a formal review.

“As opposed to a criminal investigation into an individual incident or incidents, a pattern or practice investigation typically works to identify and, as appropriate, ultimately address potentially systemic violations of the constitutional rights of the community at large by a law enforcement agency,” the state Department of Justice said in a statement.

Villanueva pledged transparency with the state and said his department regularly requests for the Department of Justice to monitor its investigations. “Our Department may finally have an impartial, objective assessment of our operations, and recommendations on any areas we can improve our service to the community,” he said in a statement.

The agency’s controversies are not limited to Villanueva, who was elected in 2018 and unseated the then-incumbent sheriff Jim McDonnell. In 2017, former sheriff Lee Baca was sentenced to three years in federal prison for a scheme to hinder an investigation into the department’s scandal-ridden jail system.

Becerra said his investigators will not be hampered by the sheriff’s terms. They will be able to look into a system of potential abuses going back years to see if the practices conformed with law under previous department leaders, he said. Becerra is President Joe Biden’s nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A new state attorney general would not affect the state’s investigation, he said.

Injuring two others, authorities in northwestern Arizona on Friday, the Grand Canyon rolled over in "Just to put it in perspective, on a age," said Lake Mohave Ranchos County Sheriff’s Office said the primary cause of the Friday afternoon rolls over; 1 dead, 2 critical

A Las Vegas-based tour bus that rolled over is seen in northwestern Arizona on Friday.

Bus heading to Grand Canyon rolls over; 1 dead, 2 critical

A Las Vegas-based tour bus that rolled over is seen in northwestern Arizona on Friday.

Trump appointees fired from US media agency

WASHINGTON — The heads of three largely funded international broadcasters were abruptly fired late Friday as the Biden administration completed a house-cleaning of Donald Trump appointees at the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Two officials familiar with the changes said the acting chief of the USAGM summarily dismissed the directors of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks just a month after they had been named to the posts.

The changes came a day after the director of the Voice of America and his deputy were removed and the chief of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting stepped down. The firings follow the forced resignations of former President Donald Trump’s handpicked choice to lead USAGM only two hours after Joe Biden took office on Wednesday.

Trump’s USAGM chief Michael Pack had been accused by Democrats and others of trying to turn VOA and its sister networks into pro-Trump propaganda machines. Pack had appointed all of those who were fired on Thursday and Friday to their posts only in December.

The two officials said the acting CEO of USAGM, Kelu Chao, had fired Middle East Broadcasting Network director Victoria Coates, Radio Free Asia chief Stephen Yates and Radio Free Europe head Ted Lipien in a swift series of moves late Friday. It was not immediately clear if any of those removed would try to contest their dismissals.

The White House appointed Chao, a three-decade VOA veteran, last month to the “reform” interim chief executive on Wednesday shortly after demanding Pack’s resignation. Chao did not respond to phone calls seeking comment about her actions. The two officials familiar with the dismissals were not authorized to publicly discuss personnel matters and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Coates, Yates and Lipien, along with former VOA director Robert Reilly and former Cuba broadcasting chief Jeffrey Shapiro were all prominent conservatives chosen by Pack to shake up what Trump and other Republicans believed was biased leadership in taxpayer-funded media outlets.

Reilly and his deputy Elizabeth Robbins were removed just a week after coming under harsh criticism for demoting a VOA reporter named to White House correspondence who had tried to ask former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a question after a town hall event.

Pack had created a furor when he took over USAGM last year and fired the boards of all the outlets under his control along with the leadership of the individual broadcast networks. The actions were criticized as threatening the broadcasters’ prized editorial independence and raised fears that Pack, a conservative filmmaker and former associate of Trump’s onetime political strategist Steve Bannon, intended to turn venerable U.S. media outlets into pro-Trump propaganda machines.

Biden had been expected to make major changes to the agen cy’s structure and management, and Pack’s immediate dismissal on inauguration day signaled that those would be coming sooner rather than later. Pack had not been required to submit his resignation as his three-year position was created by Congress and not limited by the length of a particular president’s term.

VOA was founded during World War II and its congressional charter requires it to present independent news and information.
Legal sales of recreational pot start in Arizona

Associated Press
PHOENIX — Legal sales of recreational marijuana in Arizona started on Friday, a once-unthinkable step in the former conservative stronghold that joins 14 other states that have broadly legalized pot.

The state Health Services Department on Friday announced it had approved 86 licenses in nine of the state’s 15 counties under provisions of the marijuana legalization measure passed by voters in November. Most of the licenses went to existing medical marijuana dispensaries that can start selling pot right away.

“It’s an exciting step for those that want to participate in that program,” said Dr. Cara Christ, Arizona’s state health director, on Friday.

Under the terms of Proposition 207, people 21 and older can grow their own plants and legally possess up to an ounce of marijuana or a smaller quantity of “concentrates” such as hashish. Possession of between 1 ounce and 2.5 ounces by a minor is a misdemeanor.

Marijuana has been legal in the state’s voters in the November election approved it.

The vote on marijuana reflected larger trends at play during the historic election that saw Democrat Joe Biden flip the longtime Republican state where political giants include five-term conservative senator Barry Goldwater and the late GOP Sen. John McCain.

Changing demographics, including a fast-growing Latino population and a flood of new residents, have made the state friendlier to Democrats.

The recreational pot measure was backed by advocates for the legal marijuana industry and criminal justice reform advocates who argued that the state’s harsh marijuana laws were out of step with the nation. Arizona was the only state in the country that still allowed a felony charge for first-time possession of small amounts of marijuana, although most cases were prosecuted as lower-level misdemeanors.

Arizona prosecutors dropped thousands of marijuana possession cases after the measure was approved. Possession in the state technically became legal when the election results were certified on Nov. 30 but there was no authorization to purchase it without a medical marijuana card.

Winning ticket of 3rd largest lottery prize ever sold in Mich.

Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa — One winning ticket was sold in Michigan for the $1 billion Mega Millions jackpot, making it the third-largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

The winning numbers drawn Friday are: 4, 26, 42, 50, 60 and a Mega Ball of 24. The winning ticket was purchased at a Kroger store in Novi, Mich. — a city about 8 miles northwest of Detroit — according to the Michigan Lottery website.

The Mega Millions top prize had been growing since Sept. 15, when a winning ticket was sold in Wisconsin. The lottery’s second-eliggest jackpot is $2 billion.

Friday nights drawing comes two days after a ticket sold in Maryland matched all six numbers drawn and won a $731.1 million Powerball jackpot.

Only two lottery prizes in the U.S. have been larger than Friday’s jackpot. Three tickets for a $1.586 billion Powerball jackpot were sold in January 2016, and one winning ticket sold for a $1.537 billion Mega Millions jackpot in October 2018.

The jackpot figures refer to amounts if a winner opts for an annuity, paid in 30 annual installments. Most winners choose the one-time cash prize, which for the Mega Millions jackpot is $739.6 million.

The odds of winning a Mega Millions jackpot are incredibly steep at one in 302.5 million.

The game is played in 45 states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Insurers add food to coverage menu as way to improve health

Associated Press

When COVID-19 first swarmed the United States, one health insurer called some customers with a question: Do you have enough to eat?

Oscar Health wanted to know if people had adequate food for the next couple weeks and how they planned to stay stocked up while hunkering down at home.

“We’ve seen time and again, the lack of good and nutritional food causes members to get readmitted to hospitals,” Oscar executive Ananth Lalithakumar said.

Food has become a bigger focus for health insurers as they look to expand their coverage beyond just the care that happens in a doctor’s office. More plans are paying for temporary meal deliveries and some are teaching people how to cook and eat healthier foods.

Benefits experts say insurers and policymakers are growing used to treating food as a form of medicine that can help patients reduce blood sugar or blood pressure levels and stay out of expensive hospitals.

“People are finally getting comfortable with the idea that everybody saves money when you prevent certain things from happening or somebody’s condition from worsening,” said Andrew Shea, a senior vice president with the online insurance broker eHealth.

This push is still relatively small and happening mostly with government-funded programs like Medicaid or Medicare Advantage, the privately run versions of the government’s health program for people who are 65 or older or have disabilities. But some employers that offer coverage to their workers also are growing interested.

Medicaid programs in several states are testing or developing food coverage. Next year, Medicare will start testing meal program vouchers for patients with malnutrition as part of a broader look at improving care and reducing costs.

Nearly 7 million people were enrolled last year in a Medicare Advantage plan that offered some sort of meal benefit, according to research from the consulting firm Avalere Health. That’s more than double the total from 2018.

Insurers commonly cover temporary meal deliveries so patients have something to eat when they return from the hospital. And for several years now, many also have paid for meals tailored to patients with conditions such as diabetes.

But now insurers and other bill payers are taking a more nuanced approach. This comes as the coronavirus pandemic sends millions of Americans to seek help from food banks or neighborhood food pantries.

Oscar Health, for instance, found that nearly 3 out of 10 of its Medicare Advantage customers had food supply problems at the start of the pandemic, so it arranged temporary grocery deliveries from a local store at no cost to the recipient.

The Medicare Advantage specialist Humana started giving some customers with low incomes debit cards with either $25 or $50 on them to help buy healthy food. The insurer also is testing meal deliveries in the second half of the month.

That’s when money from government food programs can run low. Research shows that diabetes patients wind up making more emergency room visits than, said Humana executive Dr. Andrew Renda.

“It may be because they’re still taking their medications, but they don’t have enough food. And so their blood sugar goes crazy and then they end up in the hospital,” he said.

David Berwick of Somerville, Mass. credits a meal delivery program with improving his blood sugar, and he wishes he could stay on it. The 64-year-old has diabetes and started the program last year at the suggestion of his doctor. The Medicare program MassHealth covered it.

Berwick said the nonprofit Community Servings gave him weekly deliveries of dry cereal and pre-made meals for him to reheat.

These programs typically last a few weeks or months and often focus on customers with a medical condition or low incomes who have a hard time getting nutritious food. But they aren’t limited to those groups.

Researchers expect coverage of food as a form of medicine to grow as insurers and employers learn more about which programs work best. Patients with low incomes need help first with getting access to nutritional food. People with employer-sponsored coverage might need to focus more on how to use their diet to manage diabetes or improve their overall health.
California keeps key virus data out of public sight

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom has kept the public in the dark about how he determined policy decisions would be driven by data shared with the public to provide maximum transparency.

But with the state starting to emerge from its worst surge, his administration won’t disclose key information that will help determine when his latest stay-at-home order is lifted.

State health officials said they rely on a very complex set of measurements that would confuse and potentially mislead the public if they were made public.

Dr. Lee Riley, chairman of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health infectious disease division, disagreed.

“The state is closely following state data such as per capita infection rates that counties needed to meet to relax restrictions,” he said.

It released data models state officials use to project whether infections, hospitalizations and deaths are likely to rise or fall. As cases surged after Thanksgiving, Newsom tore up his playbook. Rather than a county-by-county approach, he created five regions and established a single measurement — ICU capacity — as the determination for whether a region was placed under a stay-at-home order.

In short order, four regions — about 98% of the state’s population — were under the restrictions after their capacity fell below the 15% threshold. A week updated daily tracks each region’s capacity.

At the start of last week, no regions appeared likely to have the stay-at-home order lifted soon because their capacity was well below 15%. But within a day, the state announced it was lifting the order for the 13-county Greater Sacramento area.

Suddenly, outdoor dining and worship services were OK again, hair and nail salons and other businesses could reopen, and retailers were allowed more shoppers inside.

Local officials and businesses were caught off guard. State officials did not describe their reasoning, by way it was based on a projection for ICU capacity.

State health officials relied on a complex formula to project that while the Sacramento region’s intensive care capacity was below 10%, it would climb above 15% within four weeks. On Friday, it was at roughly the same as when the order was lifted.

“What happened to the 15%? What was that all about?” asked Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious disease control expert at University of California, San Francisco. “I was surprised. I assume they know something I don’t know.”

State officials projected future capacity using a combination of models. “At the moment the projections are not being shared publicly,” Department of Public Health spokeswoman Ali Bay said in an email to The Associated Press.

HARTFORD — COVID-19-related hospitalizations in Connecticut continued to decrease Friday as a growing number of people have received their first dose of the vaccine.

There were 1,058 people hospitalized, a decrease of 11 since Thursday. Hartford County has the largest number of patients, with 325. It was followed by 308 in New Haven County and 250 in Fairfield County.

Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont called the state’s recent trend of declining hospitalizations “extraordinarily good news” during a media briefing on Thursday.

“We’re watching the metrics carefully,” he said, “but we are continuing to make progress, I think, every day.”

According to data through Jan. 21 from Johns Hopkins University, the rolling average number of daily new cases has decreased by 399.7, a decrease of 16.4% over the past two weeks.

RENO — A rural Nevada church wants the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in on a legal battle over the government’s authority to limit the size of religious gatherings for a priority population — residents of long-term care facilities.

The more than 1,200 new deaths reported in the past three days alone as January is already set to go down as the deadliest month of the pandemic in Texas.

SEATTLE — A rural Nevada church wants the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the merits of the Nevada case to help bring uniformity to various state courts across the country have used to balance the interests of public safety and freedom of religion.

“Deaths and infections are climbing in the worst pandemic in modern times,” said Dr. Jared Taylor, state health official.

Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious disease control expert at University of California, San Francisco. “I was surprised. I assume they know something I don’t know.”

State health officials relied on a complex formula to project that while the Sacramento region’s intensive care capacity was below 10%, it would climb above 15% within four weeks. On Friday, it was at roughly the same as when the order was lifted.

“What happened to the 15%? What was that all about?” asked Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious disease control expert at University of California, San Francisco. “I was surprised. I assume they know something I don’t know.”

State officials projected future capacity using a combination of models. “At the moment the projections are not being shared publicly,” Department of Public Health spokeswoman Ali Bay said in an email to The Associated Press.

Overall hospitalizations in Texas as continued showing potential signs of stabilizing, but the rising toll of new deaths continued to be the worst since the pandemic began.

More than 1,200 new deaths have been reported in the past three days alone as January is already set to go down as the deadliest month of the pandemic in Texas.

WASHINGTON — A rural Nevada church wants the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in on the merits of the Nevada case to help bring uniformity to various state courts across the country have used to balance the interests of public safety and freedom of religion.

“My history with the virus is quite long,” he said.

Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious disease control expert at University of California, San Francisco. “I was surprised. I assume they know something I don’t know.”

State health officials relied on a complex formula to project that while the Sacramento region’s intensive care capacity was below 10%, it would climb above 15% within four weeks. On Friday, it was at roughly the same as when the order was lifted.

“What happened to the 15%? What was that all about?” asked Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious disease control expert at University of California, San Francisco. “I was surprised. I assume they know something I don’t know.”

State officials projected future capacity using a combination of models. “At the moment the projections are not being shared publicly,” Department of Public Health spokeswoman Ali Bay said in an email to The Associated Press.
**WORLD**

**Protests erupt across Russia over Navalny**

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Protests erupted in cities across Russia on Saturday to demand the release of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the Kremlin’s most prominent foe.

Police arrested more than 2,100 people, some of whom took to the streets in temperatures as frigid as -58 Fahrenheit.

In Moscow, thousands of demonstrators filled Pushkin Square in the city center, where clashes with police broke out and demonstrators were roughly dragged off by helmeted riot officers to police buses and detention trucks, some beaten with batons.

Navalny’s wife Yulia was among those arrested.

Police eventually pushed demonstrators out of the square. Thousands then regrouped along a wide boulevard about a half-mile away, many of them throwing small rocks at the police.

The protests stretched across Russia’s vast territory, from the island city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk north of Japan and the eastern Siberian city of Yakutsk, where temperatures plunged far below zero, to Russia’s more populous European cities.

The range demonstrated how Navalny and his small opposition campaign have built an extensive network of support despite official government repression and being routinely ignored by state media.

“The situation is getting worse and worse, it’s total lawlessness,” said Andrei Gorkiyov, a protester in Moscow. “And if we stay silent, it will go on forever.”

The OVD-Info group that monitors political arrests said at least 795 people were detained in Moscow and more than 300 at another large demonstration in St. Petersburg. Overall, it said 2,131 people had been arrested in some 90 cities.

Undeterred, Navalny’s supporters called for protests again next weekend.

Navalny was arrested on Jan. 17 when he returned to Moscow from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from a severe nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin and which Russian authorities deny. Authorities say his stay in Germany violated terms of a suspended sentence in a 2014 criminal conviction, while Navalny says the conviction was for made-up charges.

The 44-year-old activist is well known nationally for his reports on the corruption that has flourished under President Vladimir Putin’s government.

His wide support puts the Kremlin in a strategic bind — risking more protests and criticism from the West if it keeps him in custody but apparently unwilling to back down by letting him go free.

Navalny faces a court hearing in early February to determine whether his sentence in the criminal case for fraud and money-laundering — which Navalny says was politically motivated — is converted to 3½ years behind bars.

Moscow police arrested three top Navalny associates Thursday, two of whom were later jailed for periods of nine and 10 days.

Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20. He was transferred from a hospital in Siberia to a Berlin hospital two days later. Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to the Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities insisted that the doctors who treated Navalny in Siberia before he was airlifted to Germany found no traces of poison. They suggested German officials to provide proof of his poisoning.

Russia refused to open a full-fledged criminal inquiry, citing a lack of evidence that Navalny was poisoned.

**Thousands in Hong Kong district locked down for COVID-19 testing**

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Thousands of Hong Kong residents were locked down in their homes Saturday in an unprecedented move to contain a worsening coronavirus outbreak in the city.

Authorities said in a statement that an area comprising 16 buildings in the city’s Yau Tsim Mong district would be locked down until all residents were tested.

Residents would not be allowed to leave their homes until they received their test results to prevent cross-infection.

“Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the area have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained,” the government statement said.

The restrictions, which were announced at 4 a.m. in Hong Kong, were expected to end within 48 hours, the government said.

Hong Kong has been grappling to contain a fresh wave of the coronavirus since November. Over 4,000 cases have been recorded in the last two months, making up nearly 40% of the city’s total.

Coronavirus cases in Yau Tsim Mong district represent about half of infections in the past week.

Approximately 3,000 people in Yau Tsim Mong had taken tests for the coronavirus thus far, according to the Hong Kong government, joining the thousands of others around the crowded city of 7.5 million who have been tested in recent days.

Police guarded access points to the area, which include a wide boulevard that is home to thousands of high-end restaurants and hauls goods to neighboring Kowloon Island.

The Yau Tsim Mong area, which is subdivided into 16 buildings, accounts for about 17% of Hong Kong’s total population.

The restricted area includes a hospital, a public housing estate, a school and office buildings, as well as some restaurants.

The government said the lockdown was expected to last until midnight Saturday.

**People-smugglers sentenced for deaths of 39 in container**

Associated Press

LONDON — Four people-smugglers convicted of killing 39 people from Vietnam who died in the back of a container truck as it was shipped to England were sentenced Friday to between 13 and 27 years in prison.

The victims, between the ages of 15 and 44, were found in October 2019 inside a refrigerated container that had traveled by ferry from Belgium to the eastern English port of Purfleet. The migrants had paid people-smugglers thousands of dollars to take them on risky journeys to what they hoped would be better lives abroad.

Instead, judge Nigel Sweeney said, “all died in what must have been an excruciatingly painful death” by suffocation in the air-tight container.

The judge sentenced Romanian mechanic Gheorghe Nica, 43, described by prosecutors as the ringleader, to 27 years.

He added: “Instead they died, in an unlit, air-tight container to a Belgian port of entry.”

Nica’s associates were sentenced to 13 years and 3½ years behind bars.

Four other accomplices convicted last month after a 10-week trial. Hughes and Robinson had pleaded guilty to people-smuggling and manslaughter.

Three other members of the gang received shorter sentences.

Prosecutors said all the suspects were part of a gang that charged about $17,000 per person to transport migrants in trailers through the Channel Tunnel or by boat.

Sweeney said it was “a sophisticated, long-running, and profitable” criminal conspiracy.

Jurors heard harrowing evidence about the final hours of the victims, who tried to call Vietnam’s emergency number to summon help as air in the container ran out. When they couldn’t get a mobile phone signal, some recordled goodbye messages to their families.

The trapped migrants — who included a bricklayer, a restaurant worker, a nail bar technician, a budding beautician and a university graduate — used a metal pole to try to punch through the roof of the refrigerated container, but only managed to dent it.

Detective Chief Inspector Daniel O’Brien, the senior investigating officer on the case, said the victims “left behind families, memories, and homes, in the pursuit of a false promise of something better.”

“Despite their deaths, in an unimaginable way, because of the utter greed of these criminals,” he said.
City council OKs law for home delivery of alcohol

LV LAS VEGAS—Las Vegas city residents will be able to dial for drink deliveries at home under a new law approved by the City Council.

The measure lets restaurants and convenience stores deliver alcohol through third-party services. It was cast as a boost for businesses struggling with coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

The bill requires stores and restaurants to have licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption and an auxiliary license, and for third-party services to obtain a new $4,000 delivery license.

Officials uncover plot to smuggle tobacco into jail

WA BELLINGHAM — A man was arrested after corrections deputies reportedly uncovered a plot to smuggle tobacco to inmates inside the Whatcom County Jail.

Steven Lee Wilson, 32, was booked into the jail on suspicion of third-degree introducing contraband and driving with a suspended license.

Deputies first learned about the contraband smuggling plot Jan. 14, according to a news release from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office. They monitored nine phone calls made from inmate Cody Lee Wilson, 32, to an unknown person outside the jail.

During the calls, details about when and where the accomplice would meet Wilson’s connection and details about how it would be smuggled into the jail were discussed, officials said.

Confederate statue damaged, nose missing

LA LAFAYETTE—A monument of Confederate Gen. Alfred Mouton in Louisiana was damaged, with several holes punctured from its head to jaw and half of its nose taken off and damaged, nose missing.

It was cast as a boost for businesses struggling with coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

The bill requires stores and restaurants to have licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption and an auxiliary license, and for third-party services to obtain a new $4,000 delivery license.

Mush through the slush

Todd Gustafson of Otisfield, Maine, looks for traffic as his dog sled team crosses Station Road in Hebron, Maine. Gustafson, a musher for Ultimate Dog Sledding out of Oxford, Maine, had just finished a 12-mile run for three passengers from Connecticut. Sled dog musher Matthew Black said the dogs pulled the made-in-Maine sled along the Interconnected Trail System 89.

THE CENSUS

70K The approximate number of chickens that recently died as a fire swept through several buildings at A&L Farms in Berks County, Pa. A fire official told WFMZ-TV two buildings were burned to the ground and an egg house sustained partial damage. This was the third fire at the farm in recent years. A fire in 2019 claimed the lives of more than 37,000 chickens and a fire in 2015 destroyed an empty barn. A fire marshal is expected to investigate the cause of the latest blaze.

1st female mayor to serve in city’s 160-year history

ST. GEORGE — For the first time since the city of St. George was founded in 1861, a woman will serve as mayor. City councilwoman Michele Randall was appointed mayor of St. George in a four-to-one vote, The Spectrum newspaper reported.

She will serve the 11 months remaining in the term of mayor Jon Pike, who stepped down Jan. 4 to run the Utah Insurance Department under newly-elected Gov. Spencer Cox.

Randall intends to run for a full four-year term in the upcoming municipal election in November.

6 Canada geese shot, dumped along river

BOISE — Idaho Fish and Game said officers found six Canada geese dumped along the Snake River on Jan. 16. These birds were dumped in the same spot that nine other geese were found in late December, CBS2 News reported.

Both times officers found the birds completely intact with no meat taken off.

“This is a blatant case of wasting game, which is very disturbing, especially if this is the same individual or individuals who are responsible,” said Senior Conservation Officer Aaron Andruska.

Both times officers found the birds completely intact with no meat taken off.

“This is a blatant case of wasting game, which is very disturbing, especially if this is the same individual or individuals who are responsible,” said Senior Conservation Officer Aaron Andruska.

Man accused of threats to police arrested

ST. PAUL — A Minnesota man who allegedly bragged about planning to kill a police officer at a pro-Trump rally in St. Paul was accused in federal court of trying to sell an undercover agent a sawed-off shotgun.

A federal complaint stated that Dayton Sauke, 22, of Owatonna, had been offering to sell illegal firearms on Snapchat for months and he posted about plans to kill a law enforcement officer at a Trump event. Sauke told agents he sold 120 firearms last year, the complaint said.

Sauke is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms dealing and one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

From the Associated Press

Peer instructed to move statue

LAFAYETTE — A monument of Confederate Gen. Alfred Mouton in Louisiana was damaged, with several holes punctured from its head to jaw and half of its nose taken off and damaged, nose missing.

It was cast as a boost for businesses struggling with coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

The bill requires stores and restaurants to have licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption and an auxiliary license, and for third-party services to obtain a new $4,000 delivery license.

Mush through the slush

Todd Gustafson of Otisfield, Maine, looks for traffic as his dog sled team crosses Station Road in Hebron, Maine. Gustafson, a musher for Ultimate Dog Sledding out of Oxford, Maine, had just finished a 12-mile run for three passengers from Connecticut. Sled dog musher Matthew Black said the dogs pulled the made-in-Maine sled along the Interconnected Trail System 89.

THE CENSUS

70K The approximate number of chickens that recently died as a fire swept through several buildings at A&L Farms in Berks County, Pa. A fire official told WFMZ-TV two buildings were burned to the ground and an egg house sustained partial damage. This was the third fire at the farm in recent years. A fire in 2019 claimed the lives of more than 37,000 chickens and a fire in 2015 destroyed an empty barn. A fire marshal is expected to investigate the cause of the latest blaze.

1st female mayor to serve in city’s 160-year history

ST. GEORGE — For the first time since the city of St. George was founded in 1861, a woman will serve as mayor. City councilwoman Michele Randall was appointed mayor of St. George in a four-to-one vote, The Spectrum newspaper reported.

She will serve the 11 months remaining in the term of mayor Jon Pike, who stepped down Jan. 4 to run the Utah Insurance Department under newly-elected Gov. Spencer Cox.

Randall intends to run for a full four-year term in the upcoming municipal election in November.

6 Canada geese shot, dumped along river

BOISE — Idaho Fish and Game said officers found six Canada geese dumped along the Snake River on Jan. 16. These birds were dumped in the same spot that nine other geese were found in late December, CBS2 News reported.

Both times officers found the birds completely intact with no meat taken off.

“This is a blatant case of wasting game, which is very disturbing, especially if this is the same individual or individuals who are responsible,” said Senior Conservation Officer Aaron Andruska.

Man accused of threats to police arrested

ST. PAUL — A Minnesota man who allegedly bragged about planning to kill a police officer at a pro-Trump rally in St. Paul was accused in federal court of trying to sell an undercover agent a sawed-off shotgun.

A federal complaint stated that Dayton Sauke, 22, of Owatonna, had been offering to sell illegal firearms on Snapchat for months and he posted about plans to kill a law enforcement officer at a Trump event. Sauke told agents he sold 120 firearms last year, the complaint said.

Sauke is charged with one count of possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun.

From the Associated Press
Listening to Phil Spector: A three-minute thrill ride, then a reckoning with evil

By Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

P

Phil Spector was a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, but his murder conviction in the 2003 killing of actress Lana Clarkson changed the groundbreaking producer's already complicated legacy.

As the puppet master, Spector was a hands-on operator. A millionaire by the time he hit 23, he booked studio time, conferred with writers and directed studio engineers. He accomplished a lot in pre-production, spending entire days, for example, getting the percussion properly amplified in one of the studio's four echo chambers, working with 15-20 musicians including Bono and Palmer on woodblocks, cacti, bells, tom-toms, timpani and congas.

If you want to get technical, the so-called Wall of Sound was actually angled back, like a rising wave just before a surfer catches it. With dozens of musicians arranged by timbre and tone and surrounded by strategically placed microphones, Spector and engineer Leon Levine captured the sound of the room, the instrumental resonance and, somehow, the emotional heart of the record. An engineer of classical tastes, Spector famously rejected the burgeoning hi-fidelity stereophonic advance in sound reproduction. His was "a mono rushes to mono."

Before takes, Spector was known to roam the room coach-
Aaron Frazer

Introducing... (Dead Oceans/Easy Eye Sound)

This year is going to be fine. How can we be so sure? It’s starting with the release of Aaron Frazer’s debut solo album. One spin and you’ll be spellbound, swaying — and smiling.

Frazer, the drummer and co-lead singer for Durand Jones & The Indications, has teamed up with Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys for the electric, falsetto-fueled and soulful 12-track “Introducing...”

Auerbach has empowered Frazer to more deeply explore funk, soul, doo-wop, fuzzy guitars and blues, creating an old-new and deeply satisfying sound, from the horn- and Wurlitzer-fed “If I Got It (Your Love Brought It)” to the torch song “Leannin’ On Your Everlasting Love.”

With vibes of Curtis Mayfield and Marvin Gaye and an irresistible bass line — and wait, a flute? — “Bad News” is tremendous, satisfying both your finger-snapping and soul needs. There’s even a moment in it when Frazier simply abandons his falsetto for a split second, thrillingly.

Auerbach’s clout is evident, as when legendary song-writer L. Russell Brown, who wrote hits for falsetto star Frankie Valli, helped write “You Don’t Wanna Be My Baby,” the album’s glorious opening track. Another standout is “Over You,” a pulsating jewel built on an addictive drum beat and chunky bass.

“Ride With Me” — co-written and featuring Memphis Boys keyboardist Bobby Wood — uses a train metaphor (“Children can you hear it/Can you hear that whistle blowing?”) to signal change is coming, recalling The O’Jays’ “Love Train.”

Frazer drums and sings throughout and his more famous co-writer plays guitar and sings backup as they make revival soul worthy of Motown and Stax. It is music to dance to, drive to, cook to, celebrate friendships to — 2021 starting with the coolest of highs.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

Moon Taxi
Silver Dream (BMG)

Moon Taxi have a new album with a dozen songs, but you may be forgiven for losing track of them.

One unmemorable, formulaic tune bleeding into another leaves the listener underwhelmed by the effect. Has it been 20 minutes, really? How many bland songs have been offered?

But perhaps “Silver Dream” — the Nashville alt-rockers’ sixth full-length album — is not intended for music lovers. The band has already sold the single “One Step Away” to ESPN’s SEC Network for coverage of college football.

That deal is just the latest in which deep-pocketed brands have snapped up Moon Taxi music — Maker’s Mark, Jeep, Microsoft Surface Pro, BMW and McDonald’s. Is this the real silver dream of the title?

We are witnessing the natural effect when a band loses the last of its edge, lured into writing mainstream fluff. They even have a song on the new album called “Take the Edge Off.” It’s all the musical equivalent of the gradual bleaching of coral.

After the sadly underwhelming — sonically, we mean, clearly not monetarily — album “Let the Record Play” in 2018, there was a glimmer of hope in 2020 with the band having righted its course with the terrific song “Restless.” But that was a false dawn.

Moon Taxi just doubled down on mediocere, dad jeans alt-rock and are now so distant from their brilliant 2012 album “Cabaret” that it’s too far for a taxi to drive. “It’s a long walk back from yesterday,” lead singer and guitarist Trevor Terndrup seems to acknowledge on the new album.

So let’s just call them what they really are now: jingle writers.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

Spector: Producer’s legacy included artistry, arrogance and abuse

FROM PAGE 12

ing musicians as if he were Quentin Tarantino prepping actors before an action sequence. As the late producer and musician Jackie Lomax recalled: "Phil Spector loved his" Harvey Kubernik when directing guitarists, Spector "would whisper in their ears, ‘Dumb — don’t do anything. Just play eighth notes.’ It was hard for any of the guitarists to breathe or stretch out on the eighth notes.’ It was hard for any of the guitarists to breathe or stretch out on the eighth notes.”

Critics bemoaned so much sound, which stretched the capacities of AM radio at the time and prompted some to complain of his productions’ expressionistic chaos.

Spector acknowledged the so-called “muzziness,” but his ears registered it otherwise, saying that the onslaught “adds up to musical guts. There’s gotta be guts in music. Make it too sharp and you lose out. Make it too soft and you lose out. Make it too soft and you lose out. When the chorus arrives, Spector scores it as if the world is imploding.

“In those songs, the storyline was as clear as could ever be,” recalled the late Leonard Cohen, upon whom Spector famously pulled a gun during one notorious session. “The images were very expressive — they spoke to us all. Spector’s real greatness is his ability to induce those incredible little moments of poignant longing in us.”

The bridge on “Then He Kissed Me” — the moment of lip-locking impact, which singer Dolores “LaLa” Brooks belts with exuberance — swirls with strings that somehow capture the hormone-in-a-bottle rush of falling in love. Spector’s production of the King-Goffin song “He Hit Me (It Felt Like a Kiss)” powers the upsetting song with a sorrowful menace.

For Spector, the hits didn’t keep coming. By the time the Beatles invited him to work on “Let It Be” with them, the producer hadn’t had a major hit in years, and was stinging from the failure of Ike and Tina Turner’s “River Deep, Mountain High” to make a sales dent. The Beach Boys’ Bruce Johnston compared Spector in those periods to “a little boy who does something really cute and gets applauded for that, and so he starts figuring out how to get the applause back, but then it’s not quite as cute again. I think I started believing his own lies.”

The Ramones hired him to produce their fourth album, “End of the Century.” It didn’t go well, according to Dee Dee Ramone. “I like beauty to be instant. Not to be labored over, I don’t like music to be a hustle. I think we can just go into a studio and do it and not be frustrated. Phil seemed to be frustrated with us.”

Ramone added that Spector “wasn’t the most friendly guy I’ve ever met. He tried to be friendly but then he had his guns on him and he wouldn’t let me out of his house for a couple of days.”

Spector’s arrogance.hobbled many an artist, not least of which was his ex-wife Ronnie, who once told British music magazine NME that he “was always telling me that I was nothing, that it was his production and his writing that made me and that, without him, I wouldn’t make it again.”

He also proved unwilling to change with the times. A rigid aesthete who demanded submission in the studio, he bemoaned the rise of the Laurel Canyon folk scene, and steadfastly refused to let his Southern California upbringing seep into his sound. “They thought Gold Star was in New York,” Spector told Kubernik, adding that his techniques were “hardly typical Californian stuff. There are no four-part harmonies on my records. Maybe 32-part harmonies.”

He concluded his point with a dig at Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. “Anybody laid-back in this room, get the F—in’ out of here!”
By Bethonne Butler

Thanks to a proliferating number of streaming networks, TV shows aren’t exactly in short supply these days. But amid the flashy new thrillers and slow-burning sagas, it can be comforting to return to the old stalwarts: network sitcoms and dramas.

In fact, a new Nielsen analysis suggests many viewers did just that last year, as broadcast hits including “The Office,” “Criminal Minds” and the still-airing “Grey’s Anatomy” topped the research company’s ranking of 2020’s most-streamed shows. Nielsen cites those shows as garnering more viewership than any other title (including original series and movies), based on its content ratings for Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus and Amazon Prime.

Below, we’ve compiled a wide-ranging list of our favorite broadcast gems available to stream on, and beyond, those platforms.

‘Law and Order: SVU’ (1999)

Few shows reflect our social and cultural evolution the way SVU does — after all, it’s the longest-running (non-animated) show on prime time. It’s also iconic: Taylor Swift literally has a cat named after its main character Olivia Benson (Mariska Hargitay) of the New York Police Department’s Special Victims Unit. If you’re up for a serious dive into the lives and careers of the beautiful, brooding and occasionally insufferable doctors at a Seattle teaching hospital. We haven’t quite been the same since. The series is currently in its 17th season, so set in, McSteamy. (Seasons 1-16 streaming on Netflix; Season 17 streaming on Hulu)

‘The Office’ (2005)

The beloved and oft-quoted workplace comedy was already a perennial hit on Netflix before moving over to NBC’s Peacock earlier this year. But the series became especially popular — and resonant — amid a global pandemic that unexpectedly took many people away from their offices and colleagues.

The show’s real-time appeal goes beyond its meme-worthy humor, as Washington Post Associate Opinion Editor Autumn Brevlington recently mused: “Losing oneself in Dunder Mifflin is a way of coping with pandemic isolation.” (Streaming on Peacock)

‘Grey’s Anatomy’ (2005)

Before “Scandal” and “Bridgeport,” Shonda Rhimes gave us this drama about the heavily intersected lives and careers of the beautiful, brooding and occasionally insufferable doctors at a Seattle teaching hospital. We likewise can’t go wrong with the spinoff “Frasier,” available on CBS All Access and Peacock.

‘Girls’ (2011)

This roommate comedy, which aired for seven seasons on Fox, is funny, sweet and once featured a cameo by Prince. And while it wasn’t known for its social commentary during its time on air, fans have pointed out a few plotlines that evoked current events. (Streaming on Netflix)

‘Lucifer’ (2016)

Though this devilishly funny comedy landed on Nielsen’s list of most-streamed original series, we’re including it here because it began on Fox. The show’s trajectory alone — from being canceled by Fox after 3 seasons to enjoying a lively and well-reviewed revival on Netflix — highlights its passionate fan base. (Streaming on Netflix)

‘Brooklyn Nine-Nine’ (2013)

Like “Lucifer,” “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” was canceled by Fox — following its fifth season — due to lackluster ratings. Disappointed fans lobbied for its resurrection, prompting NBC to bring the goofy Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg), stalwart Captain Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher) and their colleagues back to our TV screens. The eighth season of the series will premiere on NBC later this month. (Streaming on Hulu)

‘This Is Us’ (2016)

Dan Fogelman’s tender family drama, now in its fifth season on NBC, follows the triumphs and struggles of the Pearson family across generations, while piquantly exploring issues that affect all of us — most recently the pandemic and protests against racial injustice. (Streaming on Hulu)

‘Black-ish’ (2014)

Over the course of seven seasons, Kenya Barris’ ABC sitcom — about a multigenerational and wealthy Black family — has masterfully balanced its humor with moving and nuanced explorations of issues ranging from police brutality to colorism. (Streaming on Hulu)


Josh Schwartz’s teen drama is iconic for many reasons: Seth (Adam Brody),Summer (Rachel Bilson), Peter Gallagher’s eyebrows (which apparently could have been Jon Hamm’s!) and, yes, Ryan (Ben McKenzie) and Marissa (Mischa Barton). (Streaming on HBO Max)

‘Jane the Virgin’ (2014)

This dramedy was inspired by a telenovela — roots the CW series playfully into its DNA with standard evil twin appearances, love triangles and that-character’s-not-dead-after-all reveals. But it was always more than its twists and turns.

The true heart of the story is the bond Gina Rodriguez shares with her mother Xiomara (Andrea Navedo) and grandmother Alba (Ivonne Coll), three generations of Latinas who always had each other’s backs. (Streaming on Netflix)

‘The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air’ (1990)

Will Smith’s breakout, which aired for six seasons on NBC, was one of the most exciting additions to streaming last year. For all of its hilarious moments, the sitcom was just as skilled at delivering poignant scenes that we still remember by heart. (Streaming on HBO Max)

‘Parks and Recreation’ (2009)

Amid questionable pandemic-focused entertainment efforts from celebrities last year, this delightful Amy Poehler-led comedy resurfaced with a pitch-perfect reunion special that made us remember why we love Pawnee, Ind., so much. (Streaming on Peacock)

‘The Good Place’ (2016)

Eleanor (Kristen Bell), a self-proclaimed Arizona ditzbag, dies and unexpectedly ends up in a place that looks a lot like heaven in this comedy from “Parks and Rec” co-creator Michael Schur. Danson of “Cheers” fame, plays the afterlife architect who helps Eleanor (and several other arrivals) navigate her new reality. The second-season comedy ended last year after four seasons, so you can binge and get the answers to the universe in one fell swoop. (Streaming on Netflix)
Bay Area company thinks 3D printing can ease housing woes

By Ethan Baron
The Mercury News

In a cavernous warehouse near the Oakland Coliseum, a 3D printer exudes a secret blend of minerals and plastic polymer that’s hardened into a heavy stone-like form under ultraviolet light.

The end result of that alchemy? A move-in-ready, robot-made modular home from technology startup Mighty Buildings.

Backed by $30 million in venture capital, Mighty Buildings is following a classic Bay Area startup recipe: use technology to address a big problem and — it hopes — disrupt an existing industry. The company claims it will be able to make homes faster, cheaper and greener than traditional builders and help solve a persistent housing crisis in the Bay Area and beyond.

“We are revolutionizing an industry by introducing more efficient materials and more efficient technology that isn’t tailored to certain designs,” said chief operating officer Alexey Dubov, an engineering graduate of the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley, estimated in late 2019 that if 1 in 10 Bay Area lots had an ADU, the region’s housing stock could grow by nearly 20 percent over the next two decades. The Bay Area Council is pushing to ease regulations and lower fees for development and installation of tiny homes.

Mighty Buildings focuses its marketing on a turn-key package that includes permits, foundation and a building, along with on-site installation or assembly. A 350-square-foot one-bathroom Mighty Mod unit dropped by crane onto a property costs $183,750 while a two- to three-bedroom and one- to two-bathroom Mighty House ranging from 864 to 1,440 square feet starts at $287,500 and is assembled on site.

Mighty Buildings wants to address the housing crisis by adding its ADUs to a region’s housing stock, but also, by 2022, through multiple-residence buildings up to five stories tall.

Stanford University professor of engineering and design Barry Katz believes that in the push to bring 3D printing into mainstream home construction, some of them may engineer the real breakthrough.

“A coin-cell battery, which should last up to six months. Once powered, it works in tandem with the AirPop app (Android or iOS) through Bluetooth to collect the breathing data, which supports sharing data via Apple HealthKit. The captured data includes breathing behavior, breathing cycles, and even the pollutants that the mask has blocked during use.

The AirPop Active+ is washable and protected with a 360-degree sealing, medical-grade soft-touch membrane. It’s built with a 3D dome structure to keep the filter core off the wearer’s face for improved breathability and comfort.

When the Halo sensor is used in Active Mode, it tracks metrics including breaths per minute and breaths per pace. All this can be tracked from the Activity tab in the app.

Online: airpophealth.com; $149.99

Kiyo UVC Water Bottle purifies water on the go

By Greig Elliman
Tribune News Service

Monos’ new powered Kiyo UVC Water Bottle ensures that people on the go have clean, purified drinking water. According to Monos, the UVC kills up to 99.9 percent of bacteria and other pathogens lurking inside the water. They also hope each Kiyo bottle can eliminate more than 100 plastic bottles per year for each user.

The travel-ready bottle is USB-C charged and holds 17 ounces of liquid. Inside is a 400mAh battery, which takes about three hours to charge for 30 days of normal use.

Once it’s charged (an indicator light will turn off) and clean, fill it with water up to the indicator line on the inside of the bottle, put the cap on and press the power button.

Swipe across the lid of the bottle once for a 60-second quick clean (blue light) or twice for a deeper 3-minute cleaning (green light). When the light goes out, shake the bottle a few times and start drinking.

Online: monos.com; $85, available in color choices of Blue Hour, Castle Rock, Graphite, Meadow, Salt Spring, and Tuscan Sun

The AirPop was announced recently as the world’s first smart Air Wearable — the Active+ Smart Mask with Halo sensor. It’s built to help wearers get a deeper understanding of their respiratory health with a sensor bridging the gap between outside air and internal respiration.

With the Halo sensor, the mask captures breathing-related data, and with real-time data about air quality and location, the sensor can accurately tell wearers when to replace the mask’s snap-in filter.

The Halo sensor is powered by
Path to the vice presidency

Author says ‘Kamala’s Way’ refers to how she balanced principles against political ambitions

By MARTHA S. JONES
Special to The Washington Post

In “Kamala’s Way,” Dan Morain takes readers back to an arresting moment from June 2009. At a MoVeOn forum, as California’s junior U.S. senator and presidential hopeful Kamala Harris settled in for an interview, a man barreled onto the stage, yanking the microphone from her hands. The moderator, Karen Jean Pierre, rushed to place herself between Harris and the assailant, who towered over them, his intentions unknown.

Moments after the intruder was led away with the help of Harris’ husband, Doug Emhoff, the candidate called for a new mic and went back to fielding questions.

The election season was full of jaw-dropping moments that eclipsed this confrontation. But Morain returns to it and offers a telling snapshot of Harris. He portrays her as a confident, seasoned public figure, whose success rests upon the immeasurable talents of others and whose candidacy could not avoid being symbolic.

Witnessing those harrowing seconds, some flashed back to the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., while others saw the 2004 Virginia Beach shootings of a 21st-century gun violence.

Americans had no precedent for a scene in which harm might come to a woman of color — the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants — while she campaigned for the highest office in the land.

For readers eager to understand how Harris became someone who could hold her own on a national stage, Morain charts her route. His prescience is that there was nothing predictable about the journey of a daughter of immigrants, a Howard University alum and a Hastings College of Law graduate from a local prosecutor to vice president.

Harris, shown Jan. 7, made history Wednesday when she became the nation’s first Black, South Asian and female vice president.

Here, Morain is admiring of Harris and forgives her for the policy compromises that still attract criticism. In 2008, as San Francisco’s district attorney, Harris aimed to curtail truancy with a stick: prosecuting parents whose children failed to attend school.

Though she had built her public career as a death penalty opponent, in 2014 Attorney General Harris fended off a constitutional challenge to California’s death penalty. Morain explains that Kamala’s way meant she balanced her principles against her political ambitions.

She assessed matters through the lens of the larger public issue. In the case of prosecuting parents for their children’s truancy, she sought to enforce a child’s right to an education. On the death penalty, she sided with the need for a balance of powers that ensures that courts settle constitutional questions. But her approach still riles detractors who brand Harris a public official too steeped in a law-and-order model of justice.

Morain relies on insights he gathered in his time covering California politics, bolstered by interviews with Harris’ colleagues through the years, giving the book the feel of an insider’s tale. But without access to the vice president-elect or her family, Morain cannot get to the inner Kamala Harris. Curiously, “Kamala’s Way” provides little on how racism and sexism shaped Harris’ path.

In his effort to explain her character, Morain comes very close to trading in old, pernicious stereotypes about Black women, though perhaps unwittingly so.

In his telling, Harris sometimes comes across as a Jezebel who callously exploited intimacies, even one with a married public broker, lawmaker Willie Brown, who showed her California, U.S. senator and finally vice president took three decades. Building relationships, Morain explains, was key. Early on, Harris was an intimate of her state’s unrivaled Black power broker, lawmaker Willie Brown, who showed her California’s political underbelly and its ropes.

Along the way he boosted Harris’ statewide visibility. Harris’ sister, Maya, who headed the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, and her husband, Tony West, a former federal prosecutor under President Barack Obama, have served as her steadfast confidants and strategists.

In 2007, Harris was a surrogate for Obama during his presidential run, and her star was rising. She jockeyed with Gavin Newsom as the two ascended in California politics. Newsom won the governorship, and Harris moved from attorney general to the Senate. She parlayed her roots in the Democratic stronghold of the Bay Area into alliances with East Coast figures such as Sen. Cory Booker (N.J.) and late Delaware attorney general Beau Biden.

While some observers, including those on San Francisco’s society pages, praised Harris’ style, Morain, a former longtime reporter and editor for the Los Angeles Times and the Sacramento Bee, keeps the spotlight on her achievements.

After becoming California’s attorney general in 2011, Harris earned a voice on issues that had national resonance — from marriage equality, gun control, the mortgage crisis, for-profit colleges, reproductive rights and human trafficking.

It is likely that Harris’ most intimate revelations will remain with her, at least until she pens her own memoir after leaving office. In the meantime, this story about how she ran the gantlet of American politics will leave readers admiring Harris for how she has not only survived but thrived.

Inauguration poet hopes to inspire unity

By AMY B. WANG
The Washington Post

Los Angeles poet Amanda Gorman delivered a stirring poem on Wednesday titled “The Hill We Climb,” a piece she said she wrote with the intention of representing many Americans as possible.

In doing so, Gorman, 22, became the youngest inaugural poet and nearly stole the show, drawing immediate praise on social media for her poise and lyricism.

An excerpt of Gorman’s poem, courtesy of The Washington Post:

“We’ve seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it, would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. And this effort very nearly succeeded. But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith, we trust. For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.”

“My hope is that my poem will represent a moment of unity for our country,” she told Washington Post host Jon Meacham last week, “that with my words I’ll be able to speak to a new chapter and era for our nation.”

That is why, she delivered Solomon and internal rhyme. One would never guess that a few years ago, Gorman was struggling with a speech impediment. As she told The Lily last year, writing was a means of self-expression when she found herself unable to verbalize her thoughts. Music helped her overcome her impediment, which included difficulty pronouncing the letter R.

“My favorite thing to practice was the song ‘Aaron Burr, Sir,’ from ‘Hamilton’ because it is jam-packed with R’s. And I said, ‘If I can keep up with Lesley in this track, then I am on my way to being able to say this R in a poem,’” she told CBS News.

Gorman tweeted that she included two references to “Hamilton” in “The Hill We Climb.” She also paid homage to a previous inaugural poet. When Oprah introduced her that day, Gorman said, “I would be nowhere without the women whose footsteps I dance in. While reciting my poem, I wore a ring with a caged bird — a gift from @Oprah ... to symbolize Maya Angelou, a previous inaugural poet. Here’s to the women who have climbed my hills before.”
Immigrants helped preserve the Union

BY GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

Immigration, a wit has said, is the sincerest form of flattery. This dispirited nation needs some of that, so President Joe Biden has wisely made immigration reform his initial legislative proposal.

The nation also needs a healthy opposition party, and the impending immigration debate will give the Republican Party an early opportunity to demonstrate leadership. But adopting policies unlike those of Biden's predecessor, who propels his ascent to the presidency by stoking anxieties about immigration.

Congressional Republicans will have to choose between aligning with the animosity of constituents who misunderstand how this nation has prospered by assimilating 100 million immigrants, or with the generosity of the United States' majority.

David J. Bier and Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute report that, for the first time in Gallup's 55 years of polling on the subject, 'more Americans support increasing immigration than decreasing it.' Support for decreasing it has plummeted from 50% in 2009 to 28% today. Last year, 77% called immigration a 'good thing,' and a similar majority today favors a path to citizenship for 'dreamers,' those who were under 16 when brought here before 2007 by parents who were not lawful residents.

Some unauthenticated immigrants came not through porous borders but on visas they overstayed. Of the approximately 11 million (down from 12.3 million in 2007), 62% have lived here at least 10 years, 21% at least 20 years. Of the at least 5 million children under age 18 living with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent, more than 4 million, having been born here, are citizens. The 11 million are not going home. They are here. And Americans' decency would prevent the police measures necessary to extract them from their communities.

Biden's predecessor said "our country is full," although there are 145 countries and territories with greater population densities. Two-thirds of Americans live in cities that have fewer than 2,500 people per square mile. Montana's by about 120 people per square mile. It's hard to see how America can sustain its place as the world's largest economy as census figures show. It will make sense. It would create echo of the 1980-2016 one-child policy.

The debate about immigration that Biden is reigniting, and especially his proposed path to citizenship for the 11 million, implicates the nation's understanding of itself. And it will roll a dark current of 21st-century politics, concerning which some 19th-century history is germane.

The year 1845-1855 produced the largest single-decade increase in the foreign-born percentage of the U.S. population. Three million immigrants arrived in a nation whose population was 23 million — the equivalent of 42 million arriving between 2000 and 2010, when 14 million actually did. In 1858, when Abraham Lincoln said that half the Americans then living were born elsewhere, immigration was the third of the approximately 9,400 residents of Springfield, Ill.

Seven years later, Lincoln was buried there after a nation-saving Civil War victory that had been substantially aided by immigrant soldiers. "There are those damned green flags again," said Confederate Gen. George Pickett as he watched an Irish unit prepare to attack. Ireland's potato famine helped to doom the Confederacy. Recruiting posters were printed in foreign languages, and the 1862 Homestead Act was publicized around the world to attract immigrants, 800,000 of whom came during the war. 8,000,000 were foreign-born. Union officials cast the war as an episode in a larger struggle for republican government, here and elsewhere, thereby, Sexton says, "de-coupling the idea of the nation from Anglo-Saxon superiority.

Today, anti-immigrant sentiment is disproportionately concentrated among recent Republican voters who are timid nationalists dismayed by the decoupling of the nation from their conceptions of it. Strangely, they fear that the United States cannot be itself if it is as welcoming to immigrants as it was when they were making the United States the success that it is.

OPINION

Respect each side's must-have: Citizenship path, wall

BY HUGH EWITT
Special to The Washington Post

"W"e must end this uncivil war," declared President Joe Biden in the best of a line of fine oratory. With a full inaugural address. May it be true not just inside the Capitol and the White House, but in every city council chamber, and on every floor of every state legislature. Maybe it is especially true across social media, on Twitter and Facebook, and — dare we hope? — in the reader comments.

(OK, maybe not, but we press on.)

A test of the new president's core appeal for civility is upon us: the debate about comprehensive immigration reform.

We have twice been around this course before. Efforts were made to produce such a measure in both 2006 and 2013. It is easy to confuse the various "gangs" and coalitions that swirled around proposals in the Senate and House both times. Both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama supported an effort, and even the early months of the President Donald Trump era saw attempts on the course.

Last week, Mr. Biden's predecessor was of the view that the border was "up for negotiation" — some of the southern border is impassable. As Biden has noted, the president's framework was an opening bid Republican opponents will rightly point to the inevitable "magnet effect" of any border wall. The argument will be that a wall will help to reduce illegality and encourage people to come to the United States without permission or overstay their visas in hope of obtaining legal status. But this can be worked out in a comprehensive bargain that addresses both sides' concerns.

A completed wall, continued re-sourcing of the Border Patrol, and increased security at ports and tracking of visa-holders would send a different message. Technology has improved. The sieve can be closed.

Eight years will seem radically short to people who have watched the process that can last twice as long. Theirs is a complaint based on the injustice of their circumstance and can only be met by an agreement with the government. As a candidate, Biden promised a "new visa category to allow cities and counties to petition for higher levels of immigrants" for economic reasons.

Bier and Nowrasteh report that America's per capita immigration rate today is "close to zero as it has ever been." The nation now has a declining birth rate and an aging population that is retiring, at a rate of 10,000 a day, into Social Security and Medicare systems that are unsustainable without a workforce replenished by immigrants. Furthermore, a steady influx of them will enable the U.S. economy to regain, late in this century, its place as the world's largest economy as China would make sense. It would create echo of the 1980-2016 one-child policy.

The debate about immigration that Biden is reigniting, and especially his proposed path to citizenship for the 11 million, implicates the nation's understanding of itself. And it will roll a dark current of 21st-century politics, concerning which some 19th-century history is germane.

The year 1845-1855 produced the largest single-decade increase in the foreign-born percentage of the U.S. population. Three million immigrants arrived in a nation whose population was 23 million — the equivalent of 42 million arriving between 2000 and 2010, when 14 million actually did. In 1858, when Abraham Lincoln said that half the Americans then living were born elsewhere, immigration was the third of the approximately 9,400 residents of Springfield, Ill.

Seven years later, Lincoln was buried there after a nation-saving Civil War victory that had been substantially aided by immigrant soldiers. "There are those damned green flags again," said Confederate Gen. George Pickett as he watched an Irish unit prepare to attack. Ireland's potato famine helped to doom the Confederacy. Recruiting posters were printed in foreign languages, and the 1862 Homestead Act was publicized around the world to attract immigrants, 800,000 of whom came during the war. 8,000,000 were foreign-born. Union officials cast the war as an episode in a larger struggle for republican government, here and elsewhere, thereby, Sexton says, "de-coupling the idea of the nation from Anglo-Saxon superiority.

Today, anti-immigrant sentiment is disproportionately concentrated among recent Republican voters who are timid nationalists dismayed by the decoupling of the nation from their conceptions of it. Strangely, they fear that the United States cannot be itself if it is as welcoming to immigrants as it was when they were making the United States the success that it is.

CIRCULATION

Midwest
Robert Rasmussen, Midwest Circulation Manager, and rob@stripes.com, Circulation midfield@stripes.com 

Europe
Karen Lewis, Customer Engagement Manager, karen.lewis@stripes.com, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Europe
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief, eoslavin@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1033

Pacific
Mari Moriy, customercare@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1003

Pacific
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief, eoslavin@stripes.com, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Readers letter
letters@stripes.com

Contact details
stripes.com/contact

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief, slavin.e@stripes.com, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief, kidd.aaron@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1033

Washington
Joseph Cacciolli, Washington Bureau Chief, cacciolli.joseph@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1033

Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager, karen.lewis@stripes.com, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Pacific
Mari Moriy, customercare@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1003

Europe
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief, eoslavin@stripes.com, +1 (202) 886-1033

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contact

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information to military personnel and their families by answering complaints concerning questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, objectivity and completeness. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombs@stripes.com, or by phone at 202-886-1003.

The Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday, and for $1 Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45502, APO AE 96301-5022. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, and elsewhere. Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45502, APO AE 96301-5022. Pacific Stars and Stripes is owned and operated 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 or endorsed by the government. As a govt-newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and in 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. For questions on products or services advertised Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or trial, as is. A fair and impartial regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2021
Sungjae Im 68-65—133 -11

Beasley (knee), WR Stefon Diggs

LIMITED: QB Jake Fromm (not injury relat­ed of the season in a 7­3 victory over the Que­

San Diego St. 98, Air Force 61

Cal St.-Fullerton 83, Hawaii 67

Wright St. 95, IUPUI 65

Michigan 70, Purdue 53

UTSA 70, Southern Miss. 64

UTEP 82, Louisiana Tech 74

South Dakota 73, W. Illinois 56

S. Dakota St. 81, North Dakota 52

N. Iowa 95, Indiana St. 69

Missouri St. 73, Drake 72

Milwaukee 74, IUPUI 66

Loyola of Chicago 71, Bradley 66

Quinnipiac 72, Rider 50

FIU 75, Marshall 60

St. Peter's 68, Siena 62

Sacred Heart 82, St. Francis (Pa.) 70

Niagara 59, Quinnipiac 56

CCSU 65, Mount St. Mary's 64

FAU 66, Charlotte 53, OT

North Florida 69, Kennesaw St. 54

Marshall 79, FIU 66

UNC-Asheville 84, Radford 80

Troy 104, Coastal Carolina 59

High Point 75, Presbyterian 52

Gardner-Webb 62, SC-Upsate 52

UC Irvine 63, Cal Poly 52

UC Davis 80, UC San Diego 62

San Diego St. 59, Air Force 54

Oregon 58, Washington St. 50

Colorado St. 88, Utah St. 73

At Four Season Golf and Sports Club

Second Round

LPGA Tour

Friday's men's scores

East

CSU-65, Mount St. Mary's 64

Mon-Frank 71, Air Force 70

N. Dakota 69, South Dakota 68

Oakland 86, Detroit 81

S. Dakota St. 83, North Dakota 73

South Dakota 65, W. Illinois 60

Wright St. 67, Wisconsin 64

West

UALA-66, Texas Tech 72

USTA 70, Southern Miss. 64

Pacific-120, Arizona 106

CS Bakerfield 47, UC Riverside 45

Cal Baptist 70, Grand Canyon 77

Driolto 74, San Jose State 79

UTSA 70, Southern Miss. 64

South

APLITHEMATICS

In 2019 — Eddie Collins, Wee Keeler and ance Feldman were elected to the San Fran­

1991 — Mike Bossy of the New York Islan­

tions his 50th in the game's history by

1992 — Mike Wiercinski kicks a Super­

1993 — Patrick Sharp scores his 50th in a

1996 — Mike Bossy of the New York Islan­

1990 — Winston-Salem State basketball coach Rome McCants appointed to connect his

59th American League

1794 — David Felt named the first postmaster

312 — Chicago White Sox appointed a

1913 — The Chicago White Sox were

1910 — Winston-Salem State basketball coach Rome McCants appointed to connect his

college career to $1.25 million over five years.

1998 — The Chicago White Sox are

1988 — St. Louis Blues general manager Don

1987 — Mike Bossy of the New York Islan­

1999 — Mike Bossy of the New York Islan­

2019 — Despite overcoming a光明未—

— a round of 59 that matches the best

PGA Tour

PGA Tour

PGA Tour

PGA Tour

PGA Tour

PGA Tour
Stars open season with rout

**By Stephen Hawkins**

Associated Press

DALLAS — Anton Khudobin stared upward before Dallas’ delayed season opener, watching as the “Star” Western Conference championship banner was unveiled high above the ice.

The goalie then stopped 34 shots in his first season-opening start, and Dallas scored five power-play goals in a 7-0 win over the Nashville Predators on Friday night.

“First game, it was emotional at the start,” said Khudobin, who later heard his name chanted by the 4,214 fans in attendance for what was his 100th career regular-season win and ninth shutdown. “Unbelievable. … That was a special moment.”

Joe Pavelski had two goals and two assists and Alexander Radulov also scored twice for the Stars, who had a scoreless first period.

Joel Kiviranta had a goal and an assist.

Five of Dallas’ goals came in the third period, including three over the power play and an unassisted short-handed wrist shot by Esa Lindell.

“Too many easy shots got through and they made some nice tip plays, credit to them in that situation when they made them,” Nashville coach John Hynes said.

“We were a little out of sorts in that first period, which was to be expected, but we played through it, and Doby made the big saves,” Stars coach Rick Bowness said. “It was the power play that got us going in the second ... 5-on-3, and then got another quick one. That gave everyone a huge boost.”

The Stars were the last NHL team to open the season after their four first games, all scheduled on the road, were postponed because 17 players tested positive for COVID-19 during the abbreviated training camp. Only veteran forward Blake Comeau was unavailable for the first game because of COVID protocols, though the league doesn’t specify the exact reason.

Nashville (2-2) played for the first time since Monday, a day before its second of back-to-back games against Carolina was postponed because of virus issues for the Hurricanes.

“The scoreboard looks bad. At the end of the day, we got zero points, that’s all that matters,” Predators forward Filip Forsberg said.

Dallas was at home for the first time in 318 days, since a 4-2 loss to the New York Rangers on March 10 that was its sixth loss in a row.

When the season resumed months later with the playoffs in the NHL bubble in Edmonton, the Stars reached their first Stanley Cup Final since 2000 before losing in Game 6 to Tampa Bay.

The fans in attendance were spread out in an arena where the normal hockey capacity is 18,532. The NBA’s Dallas Mavericks are playing their home games at American Airlines Center without fans.

Khudobin had never started a playoff game before going 14-10 last summer when Ben Bishop was unavailable because of a torn meniscus in his knee. Bishop is still rehabbing from offseason surgery.

**Coyotes hand Knights their first loss**

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Connor Garland had a goal and an assist, Darcy Kuemper stopped 29 shots and Arizona handed Vegas its first loss of the season, 5-2 on Friday night.

The Coyotes bounced back from a drubbing two nights earlier in Vegas with one of their best games of the early season.

Arizona’s Nick Schmaltz scored for the third straight game and had an assist. Christian Dvorak also had a goal and an assist. Derick Brassard scored his first of the season and Jordan Oesterle closed it out with an empty-net goal.

Penguins 4, Rangers 3 (SO): Kris Letang scored in the final round of a shoot-out to lift Pittsburgh to the victory.

Letang ripped a backhand over Igor Shesterkin to put the Penguins in front. Tristan Jarry collected his first win of the season when he stopped New York’s Tony DeAngelo moments later.

Bryan Rust and Jared McCann collected their first goals of the season for Pittsburgh, which has won three straight following an 0-2 start. Teddy Blueger also scored, and Jarry finished with 31 saves.

Capitals 4, Sabres 3 (SO): Jakub Vrana had a goal and an assist, Vitek Vanecek made 24 saves through overtime and short-handed Washington beat visiting Buffalo.

Nicklas Backstrom and Nick Dowd also scored for the Capitals, who won the first of four games they must play without captain Alex Ovechkin, center Evgeny Kuznetsov, defenseman Dmitry Orlov and goaltender Ilya Samsonov because of pandemic protocols.

Avalanche 3, Ducks 2 (OT): Gabriel Landeskog scored 1:38 into overtime, Mikko Rantanen extended his goal-scoring streak to four games, and visiting Colorado topped Anaheim.

Landeskog was initially stopped by Anaheim goalie John Gibson on a breakaway, but he got his own rebound and converted a wraparound for his third goal of the season.

Blackhawks 4, Red Wings 1: Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist, and host Chicago earned its first win of the season.

Andrew Shaw, Calvin de Haan and Mattias Janmark also scored for Chicago in its home opener after beginning the season with a four-game trip. Dylan Strome and Alex DeBrincat each had two assists.

Wild 4, Sharks 1: Zach Parise scored his first goal of the season to break a second-period tie, sending host Minnesota to the victory.

Joel Eriksson Ek had an early goal for the Wild against former teammate Devan Dubnyk, who made 25 saves for the Sharks on the Minnesota ice he called home for the previous six years. Kevin Fiala and Jordan Greenway added empty-netters for the Wild (4-1-0) in their home opener.

Maple Leafs 4, Oilers 2: John Tavares broke the tie on a power-play midway through the third period, helping host Toronto to the win.

Toronto played without Auston Matthews and Joe Thornton. Coach Sheldon Keefe said before the game Matthews is day to day with “upper-body soreness” following a 3-1 loss to the Oilers on Wednesday night, while Thornton will miss at least four weeks after fracturing a rib in that game.

**Scoreboard**

**East Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.Y. Islanders</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.Y. Rangers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Central Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Bay</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**West Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**North Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday’s games**

- Memphis at Dallas, 8 p.m.
- Toronto at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
- Washington at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
- Minnesota at Arizona, 9:30 p.m.
- Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
- Los Angeles at Colorado, 9 p.m.
- Florida at Carolina, 10 p.m.

**Friday’s games**

- Toronto at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
- Montreal at Columbus, 7 p.m.
- Nashville at Dallas, 8 p.m.
- Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
- St. Louis at Anaheim, 9 p.m.
- Los Angeles at Colorado, 10 p.m.

**Saturday’s games**

- Florida at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
- Minnesota at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
- Montreal at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
- Seattle at Dallas, 7 p.m.
- Vancouver at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
- Calgary at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

**Sunday’s games**

- Detroit at Chicago, 5 p.m.
- San Jose at Vegas, 7 p.m.
- Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
- Vancouver at Seattle, 7 p.m.
- Edmonton at Colorado, 7 p.m.
- Minnesota at Colorado, 7 p.m.

**Monday’s game**

- Ottawa at Vancouver
PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid had 38 points and 11 rebounds, Tobias Harris scored 23 points and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Boston Celtics 122-110 on Friday night.

Seth Curry returned to the Sixers’ starting lineup following a seven-game absence because of a positive COVID-19 test and scored 15 points.

Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 42 points and nine rebounds, and Marcus Smart had 20 points.

Embiid followed a 42-point outing in a win over Boston on Wednesday night with another fantastic effort. He made 14 of 15 from the free-throw line — a near-fantastic effort. He made 14 of 15 field goals. The Celtics shot just 20 free throws in that loss and none in the fourth quarter.

Cavaliers 125, Nets 113: Collin Sexton had 25 points and nine assists, Andre Drummond added 19 points and 16 rebounds and Cleveland beat visiting Brooklyn for the second time in three days.

Synergy: Cleveland’s defense looked out of sync without Case, who had scored 23 points. Phoenix’s of-overtime and didn’t play the final 31 points but took a hard fall late in the fourth quarter.

Durant was held out as a precaution as he continues his comeback from right Achilles tendonsurgery.

Nets superstar forward Kevin Durant was out as a precaution as he continues his comeback from right Achilles tendonsurgery.

Kyrie Irving scored 38 points, 19 rebounds and 11 assists, and James Harden had 38 points and 11 rebounds, as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Boston Celtics 122-110 on Friday night.

Pacers 120, Magic 118 (OT): Malcolm Brogdon hit a three-pointer with 2.8 seconds left in overtime, lifting host Indiana past Orlando.

Evan Fournier’s three-point attempt bounced off the rim at the buzzer for Orlando.

Pacers 120, Thunder 110: Kaviti Leonard scored 31 points, Paul George added 29 and Los Angeles beat visiting Oklahoma City for its sixth straight victory.

The Thunder entered the game with the NBA’s best record.

Pac-12: Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said he spoke with his players about the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Durant, BKN 12 125 91 375 31.3

L.A. Lakers at Chicago

New York at Portland

Sacramento at Portland, ppd

Saturday’s games

Miami at Brooklyn

New Orleans at Minnesota

Philadelphia at Portland

Golden State at Utah

L.A. Lakers at Chicago

Sunday’s games

Toronto at Indiana

Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers

Charlotte at Orlando

Atlanta at Milwaukee

Sacramento at Memphis, ppd

Washington at San Antonio

L.A. Clippers at Minnesota

Monday’s games

Charlotte at Orlando

Philadelphia at Detroit

Toronto at Indiana

Miami at Brooklyn

Sacramento at Memphis, ppd

Denver at Portland

L.A. Clippers at San Antonio

Tuesday’s games

Denver at Portland

Sacramento at Oklahoma City

New Orleans at Milwaukee

Sacramento at Minnesota

Golden State at Oklahoma City

Pelicans at Portland

Leaders

Scoring

Bral, WAS 10 121 83 345 345

Durant, BKN 12 125 91 375 31.3

Rebounds

G eff def tot avg

Drummond, CLE 13 54 142 196 15.1

Capela, ATL 12 52 118 170 14.2
Bargain Badger

Mathieu signing keeps paying off for Kansas City

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Ten years after firing Sean McDermott as his defensive coordinator, Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid will stare across the field inside Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday and see his protege trying to spoil his hopes of a Super Bowl repeat.

Funny thing: Even after firing him, Reid suspected deep down that McDermott was destined for big things.

“Very organized, very smart and very tough,” he explained this week. “He came from a coaching family — his dad was a heck of a coach. Sean just kind of picked up right from there. Very solid, very good.”

In fact, downright exceptional. McDermott has the long-suffering Buffalo Bills playing in their first AFC championship game since beating Kansas City on Jan. 23, 1994, when they advanced to their fourth straight Super Bowl. They have won 11 of their past 12 games since losing to the Chiefs in Week 6, beating the Colts in the wild-card round and the Ravens in last week’s divisional round.

“He deserves coach of the year, man. He’s taken a franchise there, both he and his general manager, have put this thing together with some bold moves and production now,” Reid said.

“I think he’s done a tremendous job. What a great thing for the NFL and for Buffalo. They love football in Buffalo and he’s really done a nice job with that whole program.”

Not surprisingly, the job McDermott has done with the Bills neatly parallels the job Reid has done in Kansas City.

Both took over downtrodden organizations and quickly built them into juggernauts. Both have bright young quarterbacks in the Bills’ Josh Allen and the Chiefs’ Patrick Mahomes. Both have surrounded them with playmakers, such as the Bills’ Stefon Diggs and the Chiefs’ Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce. And both have built defenses to not only complement two of the best offenses in the NFL but capable of clinching wins under pressure, as each did last weekend.

Mahomes, who was knocked out of last week’s game against Cleveland with a concussion, took first-team reps all week. He was finally cleared to play by team doctors and an independent neurologist on Friday.

“You have to take it day by day. I think that’s the biggest thing,” Mahomes said. “You can only control what you can control.”

Reid, who was fired as Rams coach in 2019, has led Kansas City to its fourth Super Bowl since taking over in 2013. Both coaches are big onPerson 1person 2

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

Bills’ rise under McDermott no surprise to Chiefs’ Reid

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Ten years after firing Sean McDermott as his defensive coordinator, Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid will stare across the field inside Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday and see his protege trying to spoil his hopes of a Super Bowl repeat.

Funny thing: Even after firing him, Reid suspected deep down that McDermott was destined for big things.

“Very organized, very smart and very tough,” he explained this week. “He came from a coaching family — his dad was a heck of a coach. Sean just kind of picked up right from there. Very solid, very good.”

In fact, downright exceptional. McDermott has the long-suffering Buffalo Bills playing in their first AFC championship game since beating Kansas City on Jan. 23, 1994, when they advanced to their fourth straight Super Bowl. They have won 11 of their past 12 games since losing to the Chiefs in Week 6, beating the Colts in the wild-card round and the Ravens in last week’s divisional round.

“He deserves coach of the year, man. He’s taken a franchise there, both he and his general manager, have put this thing together with some bold moves and production now,” Reid said.

“I think he’s done a tremendous job. What a great thing for the NFL and for Buffalo. They love football in Buffalo and he’s really done a nice job with that whole program.”

Not surprisingly, the job McDermott has done with the Bills neatly parallels the job Reid has done in Kansas City.

Both took over downtrodden organizations and quickly built them into juggernauts. Both have bright young quarterbacks in the Bills’ Josh Allen and the Chiefs’ Patrick Mahomes. Both have surrounded them with playmakers, such as the Bills’ Stefon Diggs and the Chiefs’ Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce. And both have built defenses to not only complement two of the best offenses in the NFL but capable of clinching wins under pressure, as each did last weekend.

Mahomes, who was knocked out of last week’s game against Cleveland with a concussion, took first-team reps all week. He was finally cleared to play by team doctors and an independent neurologist on Friday.

“You have to take it day by day. I think that’s the biggest thing,” Mahomes said. “You can only control what you can control.”

Reid, who was fired as Rams coach in 2019, has led Kansas City to its fourth Super Bowl since taking over in 2013. Both coaches are big on
**NFL PLAYOFFS**

**Game’s QBs have never met with stakes so high**

**DIID YOU KNOW?**

When Aaron Rodgers’ Green Bay Packers (14-3) host Tom Brady’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-5) in the NFC championship game Sunday, it will be just the fourth time they’ve squared off as starting quarterbacks, and first in the playoffs.

“I remember when I heard the news about him coming to the NFC, I thought this was a real possibility,” Rodgers said. “I’m excited about the opportunity to play against him one more time.”

The Bucs trounced the Packers 38-10 in Tampa on Oct. 18. They met two other times during Brady’s tenure in New England, with the Packers winning 26-21 at Green Bay in 2014 and the Patriots winning 31-17 in Foxborough four years later.

**SOURCE:** Associated Press

end of the day, I know if we’re going to win this game, I’ve got to be outperform that guy. I’ve got to be better than the quarterback on the other side.”

Brady, 43, has helped the Bucs earn a franchise-record seven straight road wins. A win at Lambeau Field clinches their first Super Bowl berth since their 2002 championship season.

“This is one of the coolest stadiums in the league to play in,” Brady said. “I know they’re excited, we’ll be excited, and it will make for a great football game.”

Brady is trying to join Warner, Peyton Manning and Craig Morton as the only quarterbacks to lead two separate franchises to a Super Bowl. He already won six Super Bowls and played in nine total with the Patriots.

Green Bay is making its fourth NFC championship game appearance in the past seven seasons, but Rodgers hasn’t reached a Super Bowl since leading the Packers to a title in the 2010 season.

Warner said the postseason weighs heavily on where players stack up in history.

“That’s why Tom is the GOAT (greatest of all time),” Warner said. “It’s why Joe Montana is up there and guys who’ve been there numerous times — the John Elway — and everyone else kind of gets knocked down a notch. Even though they’ve been great in the regular season, there’s a combination of the two that I think weighs heavily.”

Simply put, Rodgers needs this victory more than Brady.

“He plays in one Super Bowl, I think there will be something about that that just doesn’t sit right with anybody,” Warner said. “It doesn’t sit right with any of us who love this game and know how great he’s been. It just doesn’t seem to fit.”

This may be the best remaining chance for the 37-year-old Rodgers’ at that elusive second Super Bowl berth.

“It’s been a while since he was last a world champion,” CBS Sports analyst and 2002 NFL MVP Rich Gannon said. “I think that would certainly cement his legacy as one of the greatest to ever play the game in my opinion. Not that he needs it, but I’m just telling you that’s probably how he’s wired.”

**From Page 24**

many Super Bowls are won.”

Rodgers’ brilliant season has included just one outright dud. It occurred the previous time these two teams met.

Green Bay led Tampa Bay 10-0 early in the second quarter back on Oct. 18 until Jameel Dean scored on a 32-yard interception return. Rodgers’ next pass was picked off by Mike Edwards and returned 38 yards to the Green Bay 2-yard line, setting up another touchdown.

After the Packers lost 38-10, Rodgers called the performance a wake-up call and kick in the rear for an offense that had moved the ball virtually at will up to that point.

The Packers haven’t been held below 22 points since. They’ll be chasing their eighth consecutive victory when the Packers (14-3) host the Bucs (13-5) on Sunday.

“We’ve been playing the right way, and I feel like the way we’ve been winning has been better than early in the season,” Rodgers said. “We’ve been playing a lot better on both sides of the ball.”

The performance at Tampa Bay was out of character for someone who protects the ball so well.

Rodgers completed 45.7% of his passes for 160 yards with two interceptions and no touchdowns that day. In the Packers’ other 16 games, he has completed 71.9% of his passes for 4,435 yards with 50 touchdowns and three interceptions.

He has been picked off just five times in 562 pass attempts this season (526 in the regular season, 36 in a playoff victory over the Los Angeles Rams). His only other multi-interception game over the past three seasons came when he was picked off twice in last year’s NFC championship game loss at San Francisco.

“When you throw five interceptions and throw the ball 526 times, that’s amazing,” said Rich Gan-non, a former NFL quarterback who now works for CBS Sports.

“You’re going to get the ball tipped, deflected. Balls are going to go through the hands of a receiver. Something bad going’s to happen. Yet he’s thrown five picks. I think in the last three years, he’s thrown 11 picks. Think about that. You throw 38 touch- down passes and 11 picks in a season, you’d think that’s pretty good. Eleven picks in three years.

“He’s been the best in the last decade at ball security. There’s no one who’s been better.”

This marks Rodgers’ fourth NFC championship game appearance over the past seven years. All of Rodgers’ previous starts in the NFC championship games came on the road.

Green Bay has finished the regular season 13-3 each of the past two years, but looks far more imposing this time around.

“A lot of people didn’t think we’d be back here after last sea-son,” Rodgers said. “We got a lot of interesting comments last year about us being the worst 13-3 team that people had seen. Not the same type of comments this year. Obvi-ously we’re clicking a lot better on offense.”

This may represent the 37-year-old Rodgers’ best chance to get back to another Super Bowl, though he says he isn’t dwelling on his future with so much at stake right now.

“I hope there’s more opportuni-ties, but I don’t know,” Rodgers said. “I mean, I really don’t. That stuff is out of my control. My fu-ture is a beautiful mystery, I think. The present is such a gift to be able to stay in the moment and to have gratitude for being in this situa-tion again, and being with the guys and having fans in our stadium and maybe snow in an NFC cham-pionship game. I’m going to enjoy these moments for sure, and just not worry about what happens down the line.”

**By Steve Megargee**

Associated Press

For as much as Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers have accomplished in their Hall of Fame-caliber careers, they’ve rarely faced off on the field.

Never have they met with so much at stake.

When Rodgers’ Green Bay Packers (14-3) host Brady’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-5) in the NFC championship game Sunday, it will be just the fourth time they’ve squared off as starting quarterbacks, and first in the playoffs.

“As one of the greatest to ever play,” Warner said. “I always said when I played, I always knew that’s probably how he’s wired.”

“Simply put, Rodgers needs this victory more than Brady.”

“He plays in one Super Bowl, I think there will be something about that that just doesn’t sit right with anybody,” Warner said. “It doesn’t sit right with any of us who love this game and know how great he’s been. It just doesn’t seem to fit.”

This may be the best remaining chance for the 37-year-old Rodgers’ at that elusive second Super Bowl berth.

“It’s been a while since he was last a world champion,” CBS Sports analyst and 2002 NFL MVP Rich Gannon said. “I think that would certainly cement his legacy as one of the greatest to ever play the game in my opinion. Not that he needs it, but I’m just telling you that’s probably how he’s wired.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

When Aaron Rodgers’ Green Bay Packers (14-3) host Tom Brady’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-5) in the NFC championship game Sunday, it will be the fourth time they’ve squared off as starting quarterbacks, and first in the playoffs.

“I remember when I heard the news about him coming to the NFC, I thought this was a real possibility,” Rodgers said. “I’m excited about the opportunity to play against him one more time.”

The Bucs trounced the Packers 38-10 in Tampa on Oct. 18. They met two other times during Brady’s tenure in New England, with the Packers winning 26-21 at Green Bay in 2014 and the Patriots winning 31-17 in Foxborough four years later.

Both understand all eyes will be on them Sunday.

Kurt Warner, the Hall of Fame quarterback and NFL Network analyst, said that’s just human nature.

“When I played, I always knew who was on the other sideline,” Warner said. “I always said when I went into these matchups, at the
Comparing two greats

Packers believe Rodgers stacks up against Brady

BY STEVE MEGARGEE

Aaron Rodgers’ Green Bay Packers teammates understand what this NFC championship game means to the All-Pro quarterback’s legacy.

Rodgers has delivered the kind of season that puts him in contention for a third MVP honor, which would match the total won by Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady.

The Super Bowl count between the two NFC championship game quarterbacks is more one-sided. Brady won six Super Bowl titles and appeared in nine overall while starring for the New England Patriots. Rodgers led the Packers to a Super Bowl crown in the 2010 season, but hasn’t brought them back since.

“You look at Brady and everybody wants to make that comparison forever, but it’s basically turned into a quarterback stat: Super Bowls,” Packers All-Pro wide receiver Davante Adams said. “If that’s what it’s going to be, then obviously we’re going to put as much as we can on ourselves to try to help him get there and, ultimately, relieve him of the Super Bowls being a thing that hinder him from being the GOAT (greatest of all time). In my mind, he’s the GOAT, regardless of how many Super Bowls are won.”

Packers WR Davante Adams on quarterback Aaron Rodgers

“In my mind, he’s the GOAT (greatest of all time), regardless of how many Super Bowls are won.”

Packers WR Davante Adams on quarterback Aaron Rodgers

“See Greatson Page 23"