

Trump impeached again?

House Democrats call for swift vote; Pelosi urges DOD to prevent military action

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday she has spoken to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about preventing an “unhinged” President Donald Trump from ordering military actions including a possible nuclear strike in his final days and hours at the White House.

Pelosi said in a statement to colleagues that she spoke with Gen. Mark Milley “to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes” for nuclear war. She said Milley assured her steps are in place.

She said the situation of “this unhinged president could not be more dangerous.”

Pelosi was meeting with the House Democratic caucus Friday to consider impeachment proceedings against the president as soon as next week after the deadly siege of the U.S. Capitol by a pro-Trump mob that shocked the nation and the world.

Top lawmakers are sounding alarms that even though Trump is to leave office Jan. 20 when Democrat Joe Biden is sworn in, he could do great damage on his way out. And if Trump were to be impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate, he would be prevented from running again for the presidency in 2024 or ever holding public office again. Trump would be only the president twice impeached.

Conviction in the Republican Senate at this late date would seem unlikely. But it’s a measure of his uncomfortable position that there has been a noteworthy lack of GOP statements attacking Democrats’ calls for his removal.

The final days of Trump’s presidency are spinning toward a chaotic end as he holes up at the White House, abandoned by many aides, leading Republicans and Cabinet members. He was tweeting again after his Twitter account was reinstated, reverting to an aggressive statement that his supporters must not be “disrespected” after he

sent out a calmer Thursday video decrying the violence.

Calls are mounting for legal action following the Capitol attack, in which one protester was shot to death by Capitol police and Capitol police officer Brian Sicknick died. Three other people died from “medical emergencies” during the demonstration.

Strong criticism of Trump, who urged the protesters to march to the Capitol, continued unabated.

“Every day that he remains in office, he is a danger to the Republic,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif.

Schiff, who led Trump’s impeachment in 2019, said in a statement that Trump “lit the fuse which exploded on Wednesday at the Capitol.”

Articles of impeachment are expected to be introduced on Monday, with a House vote as soon as Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the planning and granted anonymity to discuss it.

Pelosi and Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer have called on Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office. It’s a process for removing the president and installing the vice president to take over.

But action by Pence or the Cabinet now appears unlikely, especially after two top officials, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao suddenly resigned in the aftermath of the violence at the Capitol and would no longer be in the Cabinet to make such a case.

Trump had encouraged loyalists at a rally Wednesday at the White House to march on the Capitol where Congress was certifying the Electoral College tally of Biden’s election.

Pelosi discussed the prospect of impeachment with her leadership team Thursday night, hours after announcing

the House was willing to act if Pence and other administration officials did not invoke Section 4 of the 25th Amendment — the forceful removal of Trump from power by his own Cabinet.

Rep. James Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat told CNN: “Everyone knows that this president is deranged.” One leading Republican critic of Trump, Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, said he will “definitely consider” impeachment.

Schumer said he and Pelosi tried to call Pence early Thursday to discuss the 25th Amendment option but were unable to connect with him.

Most Democrats, and many Republicans, put the blame squarely on Trump after swarms of protesters bearing Trump flags and clothing broke into the Capitol and caused destruction and evacuations.

Three Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee began Thursday to circulate articles of impeachment. Reps. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Jamie Raskin of Maryland and Ted Lieu of California wrote in the articles that Trump “willfully made statements that encouraged — and foreseeably resulted in — imminent lawless action at the Capitol.”

The House impeached Trump in 2019, but the Republican-led Senate acquitted him in early 2020.

Pelosi said “a threshold was crossed of such magnitude” that Trump should not be allowed to make any decisions.

During a news conference Thursday, she challenged several Cabinet members by name, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

“Do they stand by these actions?” Pelosi asked. “Are they ready to say that for the next 13 days this dangerous man can do further harm to our country?”

Pence has not publicly addressed the possibility of invoking the 25th Amendment.

US tops 4K daily virus deaths for 1st time

Associated Press

ORANGE, Calif. — The U.S. topped 4,000 coronavirus deaths in a single day for the first time, breaking a record set just one day earlier, with several Sun Belt states driving the surge.

The tally from Johns Hopkins University showed the nation had 4,085 deaths Thursday, along with nearly 275,000 new cases of the virus — evidence that the crisis is growing worse after family gatherings and travel over the holidays and the onset of winter, which is forcing people indoors.

Deaths have reached epic proportions. Since just Monday, the United States has recorded 13,500 deaths — more than Pearl Harbor, D-Day, 9/11 and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake combined.

Britain, with one-fifth the population of the U.S., likewise reported on Friday its highest one-day count of deaths yet: 1,325. That brings the country's toll to nearly 80,000, the highest in Europe.

Overall, the scourge has left more than 365,000 dead in the U.S. and caused nearly 22 million confirmed infections. At least 5.9 million Americans have gotten their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal is to vaccinate hundreds of millions.

Cases and deaths are soaring in California, Arizona, Texas and Florida. Those four states had a combined nearly 1,500 deaths and 80,000 cases on Thursday. Daily records have been set in those states this week as well as in Mississippi and Nevada.

Thursday ranks as one of the deadliest days in U.S. history, with the COVID-19 toll far outstripping the nearly 3,000 killed on 9/11 and exceeding the combined total of nearly 3,900 U.S. lives lost on D-Day and at Pearl Harbor.

Many hospitals in Los Angeles and other hard-hit areas are struggling to keep up and warned they may need to ration lifesaving care. Many nurses are caring for more sick people than typically allowed under the law after the state began issuing waivers to the strict nurse-to-patient ratios.

In Los Angeles County's Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital in Valencia, nurse Nerissa Black said the place is overwhelmed with patients, likening the situation to New York's at the beginning of the pandemic.

She was assigned six patients but could spend only about 10 minutes with each of them per hour, including the time it takes for her to change her protective gear.

"It's very hard to decide which one should I go see first: the patient who has chest pain or the patient whose oxygen level is dropping,"

she said.

At St. Joseph Hospital south of Los Angeles, nurses in the COVID-19 ward described being overwhelmed as the deaths mount.

"Just today we had two deaths on this unit. And that's pretty much the norm," said Caroline Brandenburger. "I usually see one to two every shift. Super sad." She added: "They fight every day, and they struggle to breathe every day even with tons of oxygen. And then you just see them die. They just die."

Active-duty military medical personnel were dispatched to a Southern California hospital swamped with COVID-19 patients. About 20 physician assistants, nurses and respiratory care practitioners from the Army and Air Force were sent to Riverside University Health System-Medical Center in response to a state request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The 439-bed hospital normally averages 350 patients, but that is now up to 450.

The outbreak has taken another turn for the worse in Arizona, with the state now leading the nation with the highest COVID-19 diagnosis rate. Since Dec. 31, one in every 111 Arizonans has been diagnosed with the virus.

More than 132,000 people nationwide are hospitalized with the virus.

Many US health workers refuse vaccine, causing delays

Associated Press

The desperately awaited vaccination drive against the coronavirus in the U.S. is running into resistance from an unlikely quarter: Surprising numbers of health care workers who have seen firsthand the death and misery inflicted by COVID-19 are refusing shots.

It is happening in nursing homes and, to a lesser degree, in hospitals, with employees expressing what experts say are unfounded fears of side effects from vaccines that were developed at record speed. More than three weeks into the campaign, some places are seeing as much as 80% of the staff holding back.

"I don't think anyone wants to be a guinea pig," said Dr. Stephen Noble, a 42-year-old cardiothoracic surgeon in Portland, Ore., who is postponing getting vaccinated. "At the end of the day, as a man of science, I just want to see what the data show. And give me the

full data."

Alarmed by the phenomenon, some administrators have dangled everything from free breakfasts at Waffle House to a raffle for a car to get employees to roll up their sleeves.

"It's far too low. It's alarmingly low," said Neil Pruitt, CEO of PruittHealth, which runs about 100 long-term care homes in the South, where fewer than 3 in 10 workers offered the vaccine so far have accepted it.

Many medical facilities from Florida to Washington state have boasted of near-universal acceptance of the shots, and workers have proudly plastered pictures of themselves on social media receiving the vaccine. Elsewhere, though, the drive has stumbled.

While the federal government has released no data on how many people offered the vaccines have taken them, glimpses of resistance have emerged around the country. In Illinois, a big divide has opened at state-run

veterans homes between residents and staff. The discrepancy was worst at the veterans home in Manteno, where 90% of residents were vaccinated but only 18% of the staff members. In Ashland, Ala., about 90 of some 200 workers at Clay County Hospital have yet to agree to get vaccinated, even with the place so overrun with COVID-19 patients that oxygen is running low and beds have been added to the intensive care unit, divided by plastic sheeting.

The pushback comes amid the most lethal phase in the outbreak yet, with the death toll at more than 350,000, and it could hinder the government's effort to vaccinate somewhere between 70% and 85% of the U.S. population to achieve "herd immunity."

Administrators and public health officials have expressed hope that more health workers will opt to be vaccinated as they see their colleagues take the shots without problems.

Trump won't attend inauguration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday he won't attend President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20, undercutting his message a day earlier that he would work to ensure a "smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power" to his successor.

Trump offered no clues for how he would spend his final hours in office, and will be the first incumbent president since Andrew Johnson to skip his successor's inauguration.

Traditionally, the incoming and outgoing presidents ride to the U.S. Capitol together

for the ceremony, as a symbol of the nation's peaceful transition.

Trump's comments come two days after a violent mob of his supporters occupied the Capitol for several hours as lawmakers were tallying the electoral votes that certified Biden's victory.

Biden will become president at noon on Jan. 20 regardless of Trump's plans.

"To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th," Trump tweeted.

The move had been widely expected, as Trump for months falsely claimed victory in the election and promulgated baseless

claims of voter fraud. His own administration said the election had been fairly run.

Vice President Mike Pence was expected to attend the inauguration. Pence spokesman Devin Malley said "Vice President Pence and the Second Lady have yet to make a decision regarding their attendance."

Biden's transition team had no immediate comment on Trump's announcement. But Jen Psaki, the president-elect's incoming White House press secretary, said last month that whether Trump attended the inauguration was not top of mind for Biden.

Marines try on something a little unusual

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The Marines preparing for Inauguration Day ceremonies wore black face masks, white gloves — and an unusual combination of a Vietnam-era field jacket in woodland camouflage with their khaki-and-olive green service dress uniforms.

Photos of the uncommon ensemble — made stranger by the fact that the Corps transitioned to digital camouflage nearly two decades ago — drew a number of "what are they wearing" comments on social media.

"A sad day in Marine uniforms when we look dumber than the Army," Marine veteran Pete Lucier wrote on Twitter.

It turns out the style is unique to the historic Marine Barracks Washington, home to the service's elite ceremonial units.

The jacket is a little more rugged for prac-

tice sessions than the formal uniform coats that Marines wear in ceremonies. But it won't be seen at events on Jan. 20, when Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th President.

"The Field Jacket is primarily worn to simulate the Dress Blue jacket," said Andre Bastian, a Marine veteran who spent five years at the barracks, also known as 8th & I. "It can only be worn with service B and C (short and long sleeve) and only during official barracks practices."

Barracks Marines use many tricks and unusual modifications to make their outfits look their best for ceremonies at places like Arlington National Cemetery and high-profile events in the capital. But the field jacket is supposed to be worn as-issued, Bastian said.

Originally produced in olive drab, the cold weather field coat was added to the military inventory in 1966 and became availa-

ble in the woodland pattern in 1982, according to a 2007 study by David C. Cole, a former curator at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Museum Division.

Designed for utility, and commonly known as the M65 field jacket, it's also become something of a style icon, available as a designer knock-off for \$500 from Polo Ralph Lauren — about five times what it costs from a military surplus store online.

The field jacket's rough similarities to the blues coat allow a Marine to place the formal uniform's belt at the right height to practice fixing and unfixing a bayonet to his M1 Garand rifle, which is also a throw-back.

It's also helpful for officers and noncommissioned officers who practice ceremonially drawing and sheathing their swords.

"Yeah, it looks really weird from the outside looking in," Bastian said. "But it's quite practical!"

Kim pledges to boost ties with outside world

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stressed the need to drastically improve his nation's ties with the outside world as he addressed a major political conference for the third day.

State media said Kim also reviewed relations with rival South Korea but didn't explain what steps he said he wanted to take. Observers have expected Kim to use the first congress of the ruling Workers' Party in five years to send conciliatory gestures toward Seoul and Washington as he faces

deepening economic troubles at home.

In his speech on the third day of the meeting Thursday, Kim "declared the general orientation and the policy stand of our party for comprehensively expanding and developing the external relations," the Korean Central News Agency said Friday.

Kim also examined relations with South Korea "as required by the prevailing situation and the changed times," KCNA said.

The congress is the party's top decision-making body that reviews past projects,

lays out new priorities and reshuffles top officials. It was convened as Kim struggles to overcome what he calls "multiple crises" caused by an economy battered by pandemic-related border closings, a series of natural disasters and U.S.-led economic sanctions.

In his opening-day speech, Kim admitted his previous economic plans had failed and vowed to adopt a new five-year development plan. On the second day of the meeting, he said he would bolster his country's military capability.

NY avoids closures by shifting metrics

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — For months, as they planned for a possible resurgence of the coronavirus, New York's leaders talked about how a strict set of scientific metrics would guide decisions about whether to reimpose restrictions and closures that helped tame the virus in the spring.

But as COVID-19 has made its expected comeback, several statistical thresholds that were once supposed to trigger shutdowns have been eased or abandoned.

The latest example came this week, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo made clear he had reversed course on a plan to force schools to switch to remote-learning in regions where 9% or more of the people who seek coronavirus tests are found to have the virus.

Schools can officially stay open in counties that cross that threshold, if they launch testing programs and can show that the virus is spreading at a lower rate among students than in the general population, Cuomo said.

It's a reversal from July, when the governor's advisory council of educators, students, parents and leaders of schools and unions set the 9% metric. At the time, Cuomo warned it would not be "intelligent" to keep schools open if they crossed that line.

Now, seven out of the state's 10 regions have crossed that threshold since late December, along with over half of the state's 62 counties.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — The number of coronavirus patients in Arkansas' hospitals rose again to a new record high Thursday as 25 more people died from the virus.

The Department of Health said the state's COVID-19 hospitalizations, which had dropped a day earlier, rose by five to

1,326. The total number of people dead from COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, since the pandemic began now total 3,926.

The state's coronavirus cases rose by 3,323 to 245,916.

Four percent of the state's 1,155 intensive care unit beds and nearly 22% of its 8,951 hospital beds are available, according to the Health Department. There are 427 COVID-19 patients in ICUs around the state.

Arizona

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation health officials on Thursday reported 257 new coronavirus cases and six more deaths.

The latest figure s increased the tribe's totals since the pandemic began to 24,521 cases and 844 known deaths.

Health officials said more than 212,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 on the reservation and more than 12,600 have recovered.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher than reported because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida broke its record for the highest single-day number of coronavirus cases since the pandemic began, tallying 19,816 new cases on Thursday, while the state's death toll reached 22,400.

Statistics from the Florida Department of Health on Thursday showed the totals surpassed the previous single-day record, which was 17,783 cases on Wednesday. Since the pandemic started in March, about 1.4 million people in Florida have contracted COVID. As of 3 p.m. Thursday, 7,331 people in the state were hospitalized with the virus.

People are eager for vaccines, and have swamped online regis-

tration sites in some counties. Florida followed federal recommendations in starting vaccinations first for front-line medical workers plus residents and staff of nursing homes in mid-December.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — The number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois has topped one million, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced Thursday.

Public health officials announced the milestone as they reported 8,757 confirmed and probable coronavirus cases, including 177 deaths, bringing that total to including 17,272.

"As this disease continues to wreak havoc on our nation — with the United States setting another record for the most COVID-19 deaths in a day just yesterday — it is critical that we take extra caution today and in the months ahead to reduce the spread, bring down hospitalization rates, and save lives," Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a statement.

North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL — The flagship school of North Carolina's university system announced Thursday that it is delaying the start of in-person undergraduate classes for the spring semester, citing record numbers for COVID-19 and hospitalizations.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill said in a statement on its webpage that while classes will begin on Jan. 19 as scheduled, it is delaying the start of in-person undergraduate classes for three weeks. Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said only a limited number of undergraduate courses were planned for in-person instruction. He said start dates for graduate and professional programs may vary and all programs have the option of starting remotely.

Students can return to campus residence halls beginning

Jan. 13 as planned, but students will have the option to return or delay their move-in date up until Feb. 7, the day before classes are to begin.

Texas

AUSTIN — Texas reported its first known case of a person infected with the new variant of the coronavirus on Thursday, and health officials announced they will send most of the vaccine the state receives next week to large providers who can conduct large-scale vaccinations.

Texas also set new state highs with nearly 14,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, and 393 newly reported deaths.

Texas joins a handful of states with at least one known case of the new variant of the virus that causes COVID-19. It was first identified in the United Kingdom and appears to spread more easily from person to person. But state health officials say there is no evidence it causes more severe disease, and say current vaccines are expected to still be effective.

New Jersey

TRENTON — Civil jury trials in New Jersey will resume in a virtual format next month on a limited basis, the state Supreme Court announced Thursday.

Under the order signed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, virtual civil trials will be held in vicinages covering Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Monmouth, Passaic and Union counties beginning on Feb. 1.

During this first phase, trials will proceed only if both parties consent to the virtual format.

Virtual civil trials will be held across the state beginning on April 5, with consent from the parties not required. The trials will be restricted at first to cases involving a single defendant or plaintiff and a limited number of witnesses, according to the order.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Train cars derail after hitting tree on tracks

OR OREGON CITY — A Union Pacific train carrying lumber derailed after hitting a large tree that had fallen on the tracks along Highway 99 between Canby and Oregon City, authorities said.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said three locomotives and 15 rail cars derailed at around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The engineer of the train complained of pain, KGW-TV reported. No one else was injured.

None of the debris or rail cars blocked the highway, which was temporarily fully closed, KGW-TV reported.

The Oregon Department of Transportation said one southbound lane of Highway 99 near South End Road would remain closed for up to two days.

Police: Airplane and parts stolen from airport at end of 2020

AZ COTTONWOOD — Police are searching for suspects after a plane was stolen from the Cottonwood Airport on New Year's Eve.

Police said the suspects broke into the airport just before midnight on Dec. 31 by disabling and forcing the main gate open.

The suspects then stole a box trailer that had an airplane inside and also stole airplane parts.

Phoenix TV station ABC 15 reported that the total loss is estimated at up to \$80,000.

Elusive shrew spotted for 1st time in years

CA AVALON — A tiny mouse-like animal has been spotted on Santa Catalina Island off Southern California for the first time since 2004, showing that the species is not extinct.

A Catalina Island Shrew was spotted in a photograph taken by a remote "camera trap" during a major effort to detect the diminutive animal early last year, the Catalina Island Conservancy said Wednesday.

"We have been looking for the Catalina Island Shrew for years," said conservancy

wildlife biologist Emily Hamblen said in a statement. "I thought, and really hoped, that they still existed somewhere on the Island."

The Catalina Island Shrew was listed as a species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1996.

An adult shrew is just 3.74 inches long, including tail, and they weigh about 0.14 ounce. According to the conservancy, shrews have such a high metabolism they can't survive long without eating.

Bronze statue of miner badly damaged in crash

MI HOUGHTON — An iconic statue that celebrates the mining heritage of the Upper Peninsula has been badly damaged by a speeding car.

The bronze statue of a miner has been near downtown Houghton since 1980. The right foot and left leg were broken off in the crash Sunday night. The miner's lunch pail was found in the snow, The Daily Mining Gazette reported.

Houghton is looking for someone to repair it, City Manager Eric Waara said.

"This isn't a piece of steel you just start welding on. This is a bronze piece of art," Waara said.

The statue was created by the late artist Elizabeth "Liz" Biesiot.

"He is an iconic part of the community, so we're going to try to do right by the original artist's vision and get that right. ... It's going to take us a little time," Waara said.

The driver in the crash wasn't injured.

Archaeological find halts proposed road project

MA NORTHAMPTON — The discovery of Native American artifacts that appear thousands of years old has prompted Massachusetts officials to pump the brakes on a planned road improvement project.

The state Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs said Tuesday that a traffic roundabout proposed in Northampton has been pulled from the state's Environmental Policy Act review without prejudice, the Republican newspaper of Springfield

reported.

The agency said the state Department of Transportation will conduct public outreach in response to an outpouring of comments during the review process. Energy officials say the transportation agency eventually intends to re-submit its proposal.

The more than \$3 million project was slated to start last summer, but tens of thousands of people signed a petition calling for the site's preservation.

Archaeologists hired by the state to survey the site before construction uncovered stone blades, tools and other evidence of an ancient human settlement in 2019.

Man sentenced for threatening ex-wife for 4 years

FL TAMPA — An Indiana man has been sentenced to four years and 10 months in federal prison for threatening his ex-wife over several years and mailing a dead rat to her Florida home.

Romney Christopher Ellis, 57, of Indianapolis, was sentenced Tuesday in Tampa federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in April to making interstate threats and mailing injurious articles.

According to a criminal complaint, Ellis had engaged in a four-year-long campaign of harassment against his ex-wife, who lives in Tampa, through text messages, photographs, videos and mailings. He threatened to decapitate her and set her on fire, investigators said. He routinely made racially and sexually charged statements in the text messages, including sending sexually explicit images of himself. Ellis sent text messages stating that he had traveled from Indiana to Florida to see his ex-wife. On one occasion, Ellis mailed a package to the victim's home containing a dead rat and black rose.

Postal inspectors executed a search warrant at Ellis' Indianapolis home in February. Prosecutors said they recovered a handwritten note containing the names and addresses of his ex-wife, as well as her family and friends.

— From wire reports

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Indians trade star Lindor, Carrasco to Mets

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Indians drafted and developed Francisco Lindor, who blossomed into an All-Star shortstop and one of baseball's best all-around players.

Cleveland chased a World Series title with him.

They'll now do it without Lindor.

Knowing they could never meet his price, the Indians dealt the four-time All-Star and pitcher Carlos Carrasco to the New York Mets, who have a new owner willing to spend at baseball's highest levels in order to get his franchise back on top.

The cash-strapped Indians sent Lindor and Carrasco to the Mets on Thursday for young infielders Andrés Giménez and Amed Rosario, and two minor league prospects: right-hander Josh Wolf and outfielder Isaiah Greene. It's a move Cleveland hopes can keep it competitive and capable of ending baseball's longest title drought.

The Indians knew this day was coming. That didn't make it any easier.

"They're special people in ad-

dition to special players," said Chris Antonetti, the team's president of baseball operations, adding he cried when informing the players they were New York bound. "Trades like this are really, really hard to make. But at the same time, we feel it's the right thing to do for us.

"Hopefully this will be — as painful as it is right now — a trade that positions us to be successful moving forward."

Dealing Lindor, who is eligible for free agency after the 2021 season, will cut roughly \$30 million off the Indians' payroll and allow them to rebuild.

For the Mets, the acquisition is another sign owner Steve Cohen means business.

"They did not come cheaply," Mets president Sandy Alderson said of Lindor and Carrasco. "What we're trying to do is create a new reality rather than deal with perception."

A billionaire hedge fund manager, Cohen bought the team on Nov. 6 from the Wilpon and Katz families and pledged to increase spending. One of his next big-ticket items figures to be trying to sign Lindor to a long-term contract, something the Indians

couldn't do.

Lindor, who will be playing in a far different spotlight than he experienced in Cleveland, impacts the game with his bat, glove and legs. A two-time Gold Glove winner, he's a career .285 hitter and averaged 29 homers, 86 RBIs and 21 steals in his six major league seasons — all with the Indians, who drafted him in 2011.

He's been the face of the Indians' franchise, with an infectious smile and joy for playing that has made him one of Cleveland's most popular athletes. But he's gone now, leaving the Indians without their best player and fans grumbling about owner Paul Dolan.

Cleveland had run out of options. Lindor has turned down numerous long-term contract offers from the Indians, betting on himself and knowing he could get more money from a major-market team in free agency.

It may seem unfair, but Antonetti has long acknowledged the Indians don't have money to throw around.

"What we have to do is deal with the reality of what the sys-

tem is," he said. "In this case, we had a top pick, got a really good player, he developed into a star, we made multiple attempts to try to sign him. That didn't happen and now he's transitioned to another organization. That's just the reality of the professional baseball landscape right now."

Carrasco is one of the game's best comeback stories, overcoming leukemia to become one of the AL's steadiest starters. The 33-year-old righty has an 88-73 career record with a 3.73 ERA.

Beyond his stats, Carrasco was a team leader. But with an abundance of young pitchers, including Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber, the Indians were in position to move a player of Carrasco's caliber to fill more holes.

Carrasco can be replaced. Finding someone to fill Lindor's shoes will be much tougher.

The 25-year-old Rosario is a good start. He was New York's primary shortstop the past three-plus seasons, though he struggled at the plate last year and lost playing time to Giménez.

Hall of Fame Dodgers manager Lasorda dead at 93

Associated Press

Tommy Lasorda, the fiery Hall of Fame manager who guided the Los Angeles Dodgers to two World Series titles and later became an ambassador for the sport he loved during his 71 years with the franchise, has died. He was 93.

The Dodgers said Friday that he had a heart attack at his home in Fullerton, Calif. Resuscitation attempts were made en route to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday.

Lasorda had a history of heart problems, including a

heart attack in 1996 that ended his managerial career.

He spent the last 14 years with the Dodgers as special adviser to the chairman.

Donald, Kelce unanimous AP choices

Dynamic defensive star Aaron Donald and unstoppable tight end Travis Kelce are unanimous choices Friday for The Associated Press NFL All-Pro Team.

Donald and Kelce swept the votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league. It is the

sixth All-Pro selection for Donald, who has helped the Los Angeles Rams to the top-ranked defense in the NFL, and the third for Kansas City's record-setting Kelce.

Joining Donald and Kelce are 15 players returning to the squad, and 14 newcomers. Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner also makes his sixth squad.

In other NFL news:

■ For the third straight day, the Cleveland Browns can't get in their facility to practice as COVID-19 testing continues. The team has not been able to practice this week leading to its

playoff game Sunday night in Pittsburgh. The Browns were awaiting final test results and permission to practice Friday.

Olympic silver medalist Manyonga faces ban

Olympic long jump silver medalist Luvo Manyonga was provisionally suspended in a doping case on Friday and could be banned from this year's Tokyo Games.

The Athletics Integrity Unit said it sent Manyonga a "notice of charge" in the case, which is based on suspected breaches of whereabouts rules.

Lightning embrace task of defending Cup

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Winning Stanley Cup championships in consecutive seasons is rare. The Tampa Bay Lightning are confident they can do it.

Even without leading scorer Nikita Kucherov, who'll miss the year after undergoing hip surgery.

The Lightning are that talented with a highly skilled offense featuring captain Steven Stamkos, Brayden Point, Tyler Johnson, Ondrej Palat, Yanni Gourde and Alex Killorn, as well as an experienced, playoff-tested defense anchored by Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevskiy and Conn Smythe Trophy winner Victor Hedman.

Equally important, general manager Julian BriseBois said, is the champs entered training camp with the type of attitude required to give themselves a chance to become just the fourth team in nearly 30 years to win back-to-back NHL titles.

"It's not going to be easy. It wasn't going to be easy even with Kuch in the lineup, and now it's more of a challenge," BriseBois said. "The mindset of the players as a whole, the hunger and how excited they are to get a chance to chase another Cup and go back to back ... I've just been really struck

by how positive everyone's mindset is."

The Pittsburgh Penguins were the last club to hoist the Cup in consecutive seasons, winning in 2016 and 2017.

The only other teams to accomplish the feat in the past 30 years were the 1990-91 and 1991-92 Penguins, and the 1996-97 and 1997-98 Detroit Red Wings coached by Scotty Bowman.

Bowman, a Hall of Famer who won a record nine Stanley Cups as a head coach, was also behind the bench with the 91-92 Penguins following the death of Bob Johnson. He believes it's more difficult to win back-to-back titles in today's game.

During a 15-season stretch from 1973-74 through 1987-88, Philadelphia won consecutive titles, Montreal and the New York Islanders each won four in a row, and Edmonton won back-to-back championships on two different occasions.

"I think it's more of the fact that teams are more fairly equal," said Bowman, now a senior advisor with the Chicago Blackhawks. "Just a certain player or a certain injury, something could throw you off in the next season. How hungry are they?"

Forward Pat Maroon joined the Lightning last year after winning the Cup with St.

Louis the previous season. He believes Tampa Bay has all the components necessary to reign again.

"I'm very confident. We've got all the pieces. We've got the goaltending. We've got the defensemen. We have the offensive power," Maroon said.

Another hurdle

To repeat as champions, the Lightning once again will have overcome challenges presented by the pandemic.

"It's going to be extremely tough, but we're going to have to rely on ourselves and ultimately other teams, too," said Stamkos, who appears to be healthy again after missing the end to the regular season and all but one game of the playoffs because of a core muscle injury.

"The rules are in place. Everything has gone smooth so far. But we've seen what can happen in the NFL, MLB and the NBA in terms of one guy kind of breaking the rules and other guys have to quarantine or not be able to play," Stamkos added.

When the team won its only other Stanley Cup title in 2004, Tampa Bay didn't get a chance to defend the following year because labor strife forced cancellation of the 2004-05 season.

Hockey outdoor traditions are skating on thin ice

Associated Press

KINGMAN, Alberta — Larry Asp grew up playing shinny, an informal type of hockey, outside in this tiny rural town he calls home again after 40 years away. Since returning, he also holds the keys to the outdoor "Rink of Dreams" that gives the 90 local residents the chance to skate outside during the keen Canadian winters.

Out here on the prairie an hour's drive southeast of Edmonton, the ice in the former "Lutefisk Capital of Alberta" doesn't seem to freeze as long as it used to, not like when Asp was a kid. He unlocked the doors to the rink, which in late September was simply dirt after a summer of hosting barrel racing and other equestrian events, and gazed into the wind-swept distance.

"We're kind of at the mercy of the elements," said Asp, a retired member of the Kingman Recreation Association board. "In the springtime because of the (rink's) white boards and the sun, it starts melting back

from the boards pretty quickly. You'd be really lucky if you got four months out of it."

After a warm fall, the rink was back to being a rink again by mid-December and the skating — and the hockey — had begun. Two hours to the southwest in the Town of Sylvan Lake, the skating surface on the 544-acre namesake body of water opened Dec. 19 this year for activities that last until the melting begins, usually in mid-March.

Pond hockey has been a tradition for generations in places like Kingman and Sylvan Lake, across Canada, parts of the U.S. and cold environments around the world. Yet winter sports are, as Asp notes, at the mercy of the elements.

Experts say climate change is making for shorter, freezing winters and poses a threat to the very existence of the outdoor stick and puck games at the root of hockey.

"The climate is warming, we are having more variability, there is less ice coverage overall," said Michelle Rutty, assistant professor of faculty of environment at the Uni-

versity of Waterloo in Ontario. "It is conceivable that we will continue to see sort of a shorter season, so pond hockey is absolutely at risk. There's no denying that."

The Winter Classic, an annual headline event on New Year's Day for the National Hockey League, was put off this year because of the pandemic. No fond memories offered by players recalling how they laced up their skates outside, no fans bundled up in large, open-air stadiums to watch their teams play through whatever Mother Nature had to offer.

A generation from now, professional players might not even have those childhood memories.

"Everything has changed so much that they all have access to arenas," said Craig Berube, the Stanley Cup-winning coach in St. Louis who grew up in tiny Calahoo, less than two hours from Kingman. "Everybody's got an arena in their town. They're not going on ponds and playing hockey anymore."

NBA ROUNDUP

Spurs win again in LA, end Lakers' 4-game run

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 28 points and the San Antonio Spurs beat the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers 118-109 on Thursday.

"He scored for us and he worked hard on D," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich about Aldridge. "You know, he's guarding Anthony Davis out there. That's a pretty tough job. So he played a really good all around game."

Two nights after topping the Clippers to snap a four-game losing streak, San Antonio picked up another win at Staples Center.

Demar DeRozan added 19 points and eight assists for the Spurs, who were 16 of 35 on three-pointers after making 20 from beyond the arc against the Clippers.

"We were sharing the ball. Once you get into a good rhythm shooting it is contagious. When guys share the ball we have nights like tonight," DeRozan said.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Davis added 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

"We played a real poor defensive first half," coach Frank Vogel said. "We didn't handle Aldridge well enough and as a result we got outplayed."

San Antonio scored the first nine points and never trailed.

The Spurs' largest advantage was 15 points late in the first quarter and they were up 65-56 at halftime.

Mavericks 124, Nuggets 117 (OT): Luka Dončić came within one rebound of his second straight triple-double, finishing with 38 points and 13 assists to lead Dallas to a win at Denver in overtime.

Dončić sat out Sunday's loss to Chicago and responded with his first triple-double of the season against Houston on Monday. He followed that up with a season high in points.

Nikola Jokić scored 20 of his 38 points after halftime and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Nuggets. Jamal Murray added 21 points and nine assists.

Josh Richardson scored 14 points, including five straight in overtime to give the Mavericks the lead for good.

Jokić capped a 17-point fourth quarter

with an 18-foot jumper at the horn to send the game to overtime.

Nets 122, 76ers 109: Joe Harris had a season-best 28 points and host Brooklyn, playing without Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant, beat NBA-leading Philadelphia.

Without their two superstars in uniform — blue uniforms, a throwback to 30 years ago in New Jersey — the Nets jumped out quickly and had a double-digit lead for much of the second half while winning their second straight, both without Durant.

Caris LeVert had 22 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, and Jarrett Allen added 15 points and 11 boards for the Nets.

Irving was ruled out Thursday afternoon for personal reasons. The Nets already knew they'd be without Durant for a second consecutive game because of the NBA's health and safety protocols.

Joel Embiid started slowly before finishing with 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers (7-2), who beat Washington on Wednesday. Ben Simmons was limited to 11 points.

Trail Blazers 135, Timberwolves 117: Damian Lillard had 39 points, including seven three-pointers, and host Portland handed Minnesota its sixth straight loss.

CJ McCollum added 20 points for the Trail Blazers, who led by 33 in the second half. Jusuf Nurkić had 17 points and seven rebounds before Portland rested its starters in the fourth quarter.

D'Angelo Russell and Anthony Edwards each scored 26 points for the Timberwolves (2-6), who continue to struggle without Karl-Anthony Towns as he recovers from a dislocated left wrist. He's missed six games, coinciding with Minnesota's losing streak.

Cavaliers 94, Grizzlies 90: Andre Drummond had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and Larry Nance Jr. added 18 points on 7-for-7 shooting from the field to lead Cleveland to a win in Memphis.

Cedi Osman scored 16 points as the Cavaliers snapped a two-game skid. JaVale McGee added 13 points.

Cleveland was minus leading scorer Colin Sexton, who sat out with a left ankle sprain. Jonas Valanciūnas led the Grizzlies with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Kispert, Suggs lead top-ranked Gonzaga by BYU

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Corey Kispert scored 23 points as top-ranked Gonzaga beat rival BYU 86-69 on Thursday in a hastily scheduled game after both teams lost their original opponents to COVID-19 issues.

Jalen Suggs added 16 points for the Bulldogs, while Drew Timme and Andrew Nembhard scored 12 each. Gonzaga (11-0, 2-0 West Coast Conference) won its 45th consecutive home game, the longest streak in the nation.

Matt Haarms and Caleb Lohner each scored 13 points for the Cougars (9-3, 0-1), who had not played since Dec. 23 after a pair of WCC games were postponed because of COVID-19. BYU was hurt by poor shooting most of the game.

No. 5 Iowa 89, Maryland 67: Luka Garza scored 17 of his 24 points in the decisive first half, and the visiting Hawkeyes roared back from an early deficit by keeping the Terrapins scoreless for nearly eight minutes.

Garza made nine of his 14 field goal attempts, including 2 of 4 from beyond the arc.

Jordan Bohannon chipped in with 18 points for Iowa (10-2, 4-1 Big Ten).

No. 8 Wisconsin 80, Indiana 73 (2OT): D'Mitrik Trice scored 21 points and Tyler Wahl made consecutive three-pointers in the second overtime to lead the Badgers past the visiting Hoosiers.

Wahl finished with a career-high 12 points as Wisconsin (10-2, 4-1 Big Ten) won for the seventh time in its last eight games. Nate Reuvers added 14 points and Micah Potter had 10.

The Hoosiers' Trayce Jackson-Davis scored 23 points on 10-of-16 shooting. Aljami Durham added 15, Jerome Hunter had 12 and Rob Phinisee 10 for Indiana (7-5, 2-3).

No. 12 Illinois 81, Northwestern 56: Kofi Cockburn scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half and the visiting Fighting Illini beat the Wildcats.

Colorado 79, No. 17 Oregon 72: McKinley Wright IV recovered from a scary fall to score 21 points, including a game-sealing scoop layup with 27 seconds left, and the host Buffaloes held off the Ducks.