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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

New DOD chief signals troop exit ahead

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's new defense secretary signaled to the military in a late Friday message that he could be there to carry out one of the president's early campaign promises — an overseas drawdown of forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is the critical phase in which we transition our efforts from a leadership to supporting role," acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller said in a memo obtained by McClatchy. "We are not a people of perpetual war — it is the antithesis of everything for which we stand and for which our ancestors fought. All wars must end."

Trump in a tweet Monday announced Miller as the replacement for fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

In the memo to the Defense Department workforce, Miller described at length the respect he has for the institution and the sacrifices made by thousands of men and women who

have deployed to the Middle East since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He said, "ending wars requires compromise and partnership. We met the challenge; we gave it our all. Now, it's time to come home."

It was the first indication of what direction the Pentagon might take during Trump's final weeks in office, the uncertainty of which has raised concerns among career defense officials and the incoming Biden administration about what the changes mean — whether he is rewarding loyalists or trying to force through policies the department has resisted over the last four years.

Top Biden transition officials said that post-election upheaval at the Defense Department, Trump's firing of Esper and the resignations of top defense policy and intelligence chiefs that followed, amount to a final push to politicize the military.

The firings and resignations come amid Trump's refusal to acknowledge his electoral de-

feat and authorize the federal government to begin preparing for a transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden. The defense officials and Biden's team said that gap could increase security risks for the country.

"In the 9-11 Commission report, one of the things they talked about was the impact of the delay of the transition period on our national security," Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for the Biden transition team, told reporters on a call Friday.

"Of course it's of concern to see the upheaval. It should be of concern to anybody because there shouldn't be a politicization of the military," said Psaki, who previously served in the Obama administration.

The firing and quick replacement of Esper had worried longtime defense civilian staffers, who wondered if there are major policy changes — such as a rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan or new counterterrorism action in the Middle

East or the Sahel, or even a potential use of military forces on U.S. soil to contest the election results — on the horizon.

"I don't know what the end game is," said one current defense official who worked with policy staff members at the Office of the Secretary of Defense during Trump's time in office. "For me that's probably the most difficult thing to try and figure out. The instability and uncertainty complicates things."

"They aren't letting us talk about transition," another current defense official said.

A White House spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment on the changes.

"There are certain things the president can do without the Congress. One is to deploy troops; two he can bring troops home," retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro said. "Troop levels in various locations is the most logical thing he could change with most recent changes in personnel."

Pentagon identifies 5 Americans killed in Egypt crash

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An Army doctor on his first overseas assignment and three veterans of the Afghanistan War were among the five Americans killed in a helicopter crash in Egypt, the Pentagon said Saturday.

A total of seven international peacekeepers, including a French air force officer and a Czech soldier, were killed when the UH-60 Black Hawk they were traveling in crashed near the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh on Thursday.

One survivor, an American

service member serving with the Multinational Force and Observers mission, had been wounded and was medically evacuated.

A Pentagon statement identified the five dead Americans as the following:

■ Capt. Seth Vernon Vandekamp, 31, of Katy, Texas;

■ Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dallas Gearld Garza, 34, of Fayetteville, N.C.;

■ Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marwan Sameh Ghabour, 27, from Marlborough, Mass.;

■ Staff Sgt. Kyle Robert McKee, 35, of Painesville, Ohio; and

■ Sgt. Jeremy Cain Sherman, 23, from Watseka, Ill.

"It is with profound sadness that we mourn this tragic loss of life," Col. David S. Sentell, commander of Task Force Sinai, said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends and loved ones of our fallen during this most difficult time. They should know that their nation will continue to honor their sacrifice."

The U.S. Army task force of about 450 active duty, reserve and National Guard troops is the largest contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers. The peacekeeping

mission is made up of about 1,150 troops from 13 countries and since 1981 has monitored compliance with the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord signed in 1979.

The four others killed were part of the aviation company, which the MFO website says consists of eight Black Hawk helicopters and a C-12 Huron plane for reconnaissance, transport, resupply, medical evacuation and other missions.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation, but MFO has said it appears to have been a mechanical failure.

Biden debating backing national lockdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden faces a decision unlike any other incoming president: whether to back a short-term national lockdown to finally arrest a raging pandemic.

For now, it's a question the president-elect would prefer to avoid. In the week since he defeated President Donald Trump, Biden has devoted most of his public remarks to encouraging Americans to wear a mask and view the coronavirus as a threat that has no regard for political ideology.

But the debate has been livelier among members of the coronavirus advisory board Biden announced this week. One member, Dr. Michael Os-

terholm, suggested a four- to six-week lockdown with financial aid for Americans whose livelihoods would be affected. He later walked back his remarks and was rebutted by two other members of the panel who said a widespread lockdown shouldn't be under consideration.

That's a sign of the tough dynamic Biden will face when he is inaugurated in January. He campaigned as a more responsible steward of America's public health than President Donald Trump is and has been blunt about the challenges that lie ahead for the country, warning of a "dark winter" as cases spike.

But talk of lockdowns are

especially sensitive. For one, they're nearly impossible for a president to enact on his own, requiring bipartisan support from state and local officials. But more broadly, they're a political flashpoint that could undermine Biden's efforts to unify a deeply divided country.

"It would create a backlash," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security who added that such a move could make the situation worse if people don't comply with restrictions. "Lockdowns can have consequences that diminish the value of such an approach."

Still, the pandemic's toll continues to escalate. Several states

are beginning to bring back some of the restrictions first imposed during the spring. But leaders in much of the country are proceeding with caution, aware that Americans are already fatigued by virus-related disruptions.

Biden himself has fueled some of the confusion about his stance on lockdowns during his campaign. He initially told ABC he would "listen to the scientists" if they advised him to shut down the country, and then took a more nuanced position.

"There's going to be no need, in my view, to be able to shut down the whole economy," he said at a town hall in September.

CDC: Wearing a mask can also protect wearer

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials are taking a new tack to encourage Americans to wear masks: They're emphasizing recent research that a mask protects the person who wears it.

Previously, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised people to wear masks because of evidence that it stops people who are infected with coronavirus — whether they know it or not — from spreading it to others.

But this week the CDC posted

a new scientific brief discussing recent studies finding that a wearer gets some protection.

The agency's guidance didn't change. It continues to advise Americans to wear masks to stop the virus from spreading.

"But now we're saying here's another reason" to do it, said Dr. John Brooks, chief medical officer for the CDC's COVID-19 emergency response.

Agency officials were influenced by a recent study led by Japanese researchers who used mannequin heads and artificial respirators to simulate the spread of coronavirus

particles through the air, and assess how well masks blocked transmission.

It confirmed earlier research that masks work best when worn by an infected person who might spread it by coughing, sneezing or talking.

Masks block about 60% of the amount of virus that comes out of an infected person, the study found.

But the researchers also found there was benefit when an uninfected person wearing a mask was unlucky enough to be near an infected person who wasn't wearing one. In that sce-

nario, the amount of virus the uninfected person inhaled fell by 37% — to 50% — if they wore a mask.

When both people were wearing masks, the decline in virus particles reaching the second person was largest — close to 70%.

The study didn't perfectly mimic most real-world situations, however. For example, the heads were closer together than six feet, and the exhaling mannequin head was doing more of a constant cough than regular breathing.

Trump lauds COVID-19 vaccine progress, says it will ship soon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gliding over significant challenges still to come, President Donald Trump offered a rosy update on the race for a vaccine for the resurgent coronavirus as he delivered his first public remarks since his defeat by President-

elect Joe Biden. He still did not concede the election.

Trump spoke from the Rose Garden Friday as the nation sets records for confirmed cases of COVID-19, and as hospitalizations near critical levels and fatalities climb to the highest levels since the spring.

He said a vaccine would ship

in "a matter of weeks" to vulnerable populations, though the Food and Drug Administration has not yet been asked to grant the necessary emergency approvals.

In fact, there's no guarantee that Pfizer's shot, the front-runner, will get rapid authorization for emergency use.

Even if it does, there's no information yet indicating if the vaccine works in older adults or just younger, healthier adults.

Nor does Pfizer have a large commercial stockpile already poised to ship; initial batches of shots would be small and targeted to certain still-to-be-determined populations.

Iota threatening Nicaragua, Honduras

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tropical Storm Iota was brewing in the Caribbean Sea early Saturday, threatening a second tropical strike for Nicaragua and Honduras, countries recently ransacked by a Category 4 Hurricane Eta.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Iota could bring dangerous wind, storm surge and as much as 30 inches of rainfall to the two Central American countries, approaching their coasts as early as Monday. The system formed Friday afternoon.

The storm was located early Saturday about 340 miles south-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. There were no coastal warnings or watches in effect as of Satur-

day morning. Iota was moving to the west-southwest at 5 mph.

Iota could wreak more havoc in a region where people are still grappling with the aftermath of Eta. That system hit Nicaragua last week as a Category 4 hurricane, killing at least 120 people as torrential rains brought flash floods and landslides to parts of Central America and Mexico. Then it meandered across Cuba, the Florida Keys and around the Gulf of Mexico before slogging ashore again near Cedar Key, Fla., and dashing across Florida and the Carolinas.

The Tampa Bay area was buffeted with gusty winds and rain, and there was one U.S. death linked to Eta: In Bradenton Beach, Mark Mixon stepped into his

flooded garage as he was laying sandbags around his home Wednesday evening and was electrocuted, said Jacob Saur, director of public safety for Manatee County.

Iota is already a record-setting system, being the 30th named storm of this year's extraordinarily busy Atlantic hurricane season. Such activity has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing wetter, stronger and more destructive storms.

Eta was the 28th named storm of this year's hurricane season, tying the 2005 record for named storms. Theta, the 29th, was weakening over the far eastern Atlantic Ocean. It was expected to become a remnant low later Saturday, forecasters said.

VMI announces an interim superintendent

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Va. — The Virginia Military Institute has selected a retired U.S. Army major general to serve as its interim superintendent amid a leadership shakeup that followed a newspaper article describing allegations of persistent racism at the school.

Cedric Wins will step in to lead the military college until a permanent superintendent is chosen, the school announced in a news release Friday. Wins will be the first Black leader to serve in that role, a school spokesman said.

The move comes after VMI's former superintendent, retired Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, resigned last month under pressure from the governor's office following the publication of a Washington Post article that described incidents such as lynching threats and a white professor reminiscing in class about her father's Ku Klux Klan membership.

Earlier this month, the General Assembly approved adding \$1 million to the state budget to pay for an independent investigation into the allegations.

The VMI Board of Visitors has appoint-

ed a superintendent search committee and will work with an executive search firm to identify candidates over the next several months. A new, permanent superintendent is expected to be in place during the summer of 2021, according to Friday's news release.

Wins graduated from VMI in 1985 and was commissioned into the Army as a field artillery officer, according to a biography provided by the school. In his final command, Wins was the first Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command.

Pompeo arrives in France on touchy 7-nation tour

Associated Press

PARIS — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Paris on Saturday at the start of a seven-country tour of Europe and the Middle East, a trip that is certain to be awkward since all the nations on his schedule have congratulated Joe Biden for his victory in the U.S. presidential race.

The trip is aimed at shoring up the priorities of the outgoing administration of President Donald Trump. It will include visits to Israeli settlements in the West Bank that have been avoided by previous secretaries of state.

The United States' top diplomat — as well as its president and much of his Republican Party — have not accepted the results of the American election, and the unusual circumstances will likely overshadow the

issues.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian noted on Friday the "difficult subjects" on the table, from the situation in Iraq and Iran, terrorism, the Middle East and China.

"For the moment, my counterpart is Mike Pompeo, until Jan. 20," Le Drian said on BFMTV, referring to the date when Trump's term ends. "He's coming to Paris. I receive him."

That meeting will take place Monday, Le Drian said, suggesting that Pompeo also will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

The French president, who spoke with Biden four days ago to offer congratulations, has had a tense relationship with Trump.

Both leaders initially worked to woo each other with gestures of extravagance, such as Macron making Trump the guest of honor at a Bastille Day military parade. Trump later pulled out of the Paris global climate accord, a blow to Macron.

After France, Pompeo's tour takes him to Turkey, Georgia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The leaders of all of those countries have offered public congratulations to Biden.

Beside France, Turkey, Georgia and Qatar have had fractious relationships with the Trump administration, and it was not clear whether Pompeo planned public engagements with their leaders — or whether he would take questions from the press, with whom he has had a frosty relationship.

NM, Ore. impose new near-lockdowns

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE—The governors of Oregon and New Mexico ordered near-lockdowns Friday in the most aggressive response yet to the latest wave of coronavirus infections shattering records across the U.S., even as many of their counterparts in other states show little appetite for reimposing the hard-line restrictions of last spring.

“We are in a life-or-death situation, and if we don’t act right now, we cannot preserve the lives, we can’t keep saving lives, and we will absolutely crush our current health care system and infrastructure,” Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico said in imposing a two-week stay-at-home order.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown ordered a two-week “freeze” starting Wednesday, under which all businesses will be required to close their offices to the public and mandate work-from-home “to the greatest extent possible.”

While most Oregon stores will remain open, gyms, museums, pools, movie theaters and zoos will be forced to close, and restaurants and bars will be limited to takeout. Social gatherings will be restricted to six people.

The Democratic governor warned that violators could face fines or arrest.

“For the last eight months, I have been asking Oregonians to follow to the letter and the spirit of the law, and we have not chosen to engage law enforcement,” Brown said. “At this point in time, unfortunately, we have no other option.”

Both states had lockdowns earlier in the year, but the coronavirus is coming back with a vengeance across the country, and the U.S. is facing a long, dark winter.

California

SACRAMENTO — For months, Gov. Gavin Newsom has pleaded with Californians to resist the temptation to so-

cialize with friends and relatives outside their household. Turns out, he’s the one who couldn’t resist.

Newsom acknowledged Friday he attended a birthday party with a dozen friends on Nov. 6 at the posh French Laundry restaurant in wine country north of San Francisco.

“While our family followed the restaurant’s health protocols and took safety precautions, we should have modeled better behavior and not joined the dinner,” he said in a statement.

The dinner, first reported Friday by the San Francisco Chronicle, included 12 people sitting outside at the famed restaurant in Napa County. It was in celebration of the 50th birthday of Jason Kinney, a Newsom friend and political adviser. Newsom’s wife also attended.

According to the Chronicle, representatives for Kinney and Newsom declined to specify how many households the diners represented, but did not dispute that it was more than three.

State guidelines limit gatherings, defined as “social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place,” to no more than three households. It’s unclear if the rule applies to restaurants, however, which follow different guidance.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak on Friday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 as the virus surges to record levels in the state and across the U.S.

Sisolak said on a call with reporters he was not experiencing any symptoms and was swabbed for a rapid test on Friday morning as a matter of routine. After it yielded a positive result, he also underwent molecular testing and his sample is still being processed.

“I’m a little tired, but I’ve been tired since March when we started fighting COVID,” Sisolak said. “I think this just

puts a spotlight on the fact that you can take all the precautions that are possible and you can still contract the virus. I don’t know how I got it, but we’re going to quarantine and get through it.”

Last week, the governor’s office announced an unnamed Carson City-based staffer who had not been in close contact with Sisolak but had tested positive for the virus.

The governor said he tested negative for the virus on Nov. 2 and 6. He has limited his appearances as the virus has surged. Apart from his residence and the Capitol, he only appeared in public twice this week — at a press conference Tuesday in Carson City and at the opening of a Department of Motor Vehicles Office in Reno on Monday. At both events, attendees wore masks and chairs were spread at least 6 feet apart.

New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico is putting on hold any new jury trials and closing state motor vehicle offices in response to surging coronavirus infections across the state.

The state Supreme Court on Friday postponed the start of any new civil and criminal jury trials until the end of the year. Exceptions can be approved by the chief justice.

The state’s appellate, district, metropolitan and magistrate courts will remain open while following guidelines to reduce risks of virus transmission.

The Taxation and Revenue Department said it is closing down field offices and its motor vehicle division offices through Nov. 30.

The state is offering a grace period during the pandemic for people to renew expired driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations, while expanding online services.

North Dakota

BISMARCK — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum ordered a statewide mask mandate and

imposed several business restrictions late Friday in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus that has stressed the state’s hospital capacity.

The Republican governor’s executive order comes after increased pressure from doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to require face coverings. The directive goes into effect Saturday and will last until Dec. 13.

Burgum said in a statement that doctors and nurses “need our help, and they need it now.”

Burgum for months had avoided statewide mandates regarding mask-wearing and business occupancies, instead stressing a personal responsibility message.

“Our situation has changed, and we must change with it,” Burgum said in a video message posted at 10 p.m. Friday.

There were only nine staffed intensive care beds and 160 staffed inpatient beds available in the state on Friday.

Texas

AUSTIN — Texas on Friday surpassed 7,000 hospitalized patients for the first time since early August, just days after becoming America’s first state to surpass 1 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said that there were 7,083 people hospitalized in the state with COVID-19 as cases continue to rise.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott hasn’t indicated whether he will revert to tougher restrictions on businesses, instead emphasizing in recent days that new therapeutics and vaccines are expected to become available soon.

But others believe it is only a matter of time. In Houston, the county’s top elected official, Judge Lina Hidalgo, criticized what she called a “vicious cycle of wishful thinking and unsustainable reopenings.”

“We now know inevitably, another pullback is necessary, is going to be coming soon I’m sure,” Hidalgo said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman rescues ill swan by foot, car and subway

NY NEW YORK — Ariel Cordova-Rojas went to New York's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens on Nov. 5 to celebrate her 30th birthday.

She ended up rescuing a swan with lead poisoning, taking it to a wildlife clinic by foot, car and subway with the help of both friends and strangers.

Cordova-Rojas is trained in identifying and rescuing wildlife, the New York Times reported, having worked at the Wild Bird Fund clinic in Manhattan for five years.

It could take three weeks or up to two months before Bae returns to the refuge, Cordova-Rojas said.

Woman's child shot in dispute over food order

MI DETROIT — A Detroit woman shot and wounded her 20-month-old daughter during a dispute with a neighbor over a food delivery order.

The girl was sitting in a car when she was struck, according to Detroit police.

The child's mother had arrived home and confronted the neighbor after learning her food order was taken.

She pulled and fired a gun after the neighbor allegedly grabbed a hammer, police said.

Police said she has a concealed pistol license. Her daughter was in critical condition at a hospital.

State reopening historic courthouse for hearings

SC CAMDEN — One of South Carolina's oldest cities is reopening a historic courthouse for court hearings

for the first time in more than a century.

Camden has started holding weekly Municipal Court hearings at the Historic Robert Mills Courthouse downtown.

The courthouse, named for its architect designer, was built from 1825 to 1827 and used for 80 years. Robert Mills is best known for the Washington Monument, but also designed a number a courthouses and other public buildings in South Carolina before the Civil War.

Toddler shoots mom with 'unsecured' gun

IA DYERSVILLE — A woman in eastern Iowa was hospitalized after being shot by her child, 2, according to police.

The shooting happened in Dyersville, the Telegraph Herald of Dubuque reported. Dyersville police revealed the shooting in a news release, but gave few details. Investigators determined the woman, 21, was shot by the toddler after the child found a handgun "that was left unsecured," police said.

The woman was airlifted to an Iowa City hospital for treatment. Police said authorities are considering whether to file charges in the case.

No live audience invited to national tree lighting

DC WASHINGTON — No live audience will be invited this year to watch the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse, the National Park Service said, citing public health concerns over COVID-19.

However, the ceremony will be available virtually, the park service said. It invited people to view the Dec. 3 event at the-nationaltree.org.

Restaurants offering free food to Trump fans

KY LOUISVILLE — Two restaurant owners in Kentucky who support President-elect Joe Biden are offering free food and drinks to supporters of President Donald Trump, but with a catch: They have to turn in their "useless" Trump merchandise.

The idea was hatched by Troy King and his wife Selena Johnson, who own Pollo — A Gourmet Chicken Joint. They told the Courier Journal that their idea was to extend an olive branch to the other side.

They posted their offer on the Louisville restaurant's Facebook page — and then got some heat online. King said someone called threatening him if they didn't remove the Facebook post. Instead they decided to expand the promotion to their other restaurant, Six Forks Burger, and keep it going through November.

So far, no one has taken advantage of the offer.

Thousands of Harley riders, fans to be in UP

MI ESCANABA — Bikers are coming next year to the Upper Peninsula.

The Escanaba area will be the site of a three-day July rally by the Great Lakes Harley Owners Group. It is expected to bring thousands of Harley-Davidson motorcycle riders and enthusiasts to Delta County.

The planning process began with a meeting at the U.P. state fairgrounds, The Daily Press reported.

The last time Harley riders were in Escanaba for a rally was in 2010. The rally will include a parade and block party in Escanaba. The dates are July 22-24.

Officials: Some license renewal sites up-charge

AL MONTGOMERY — Alabama law enforcement officials cautioned people to beware of third-party websites when they renew their driver license online.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency said in a news release that some third-party websites are charging people extra fees to renew their license online. The sites are not affiliated with the state.

ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor said one website charged a \$50 administrative fee in addition to the agency's \$39 renewal fee.

The agency urged people to go directly to ALEA's Driver License Division at www.alea.gov to renew their license online instead of using a search engine to find the site.

State employee accused of illegal Viagra scheme

KY FRANKFORT — A former Kentucky state government employee was accused of running an illegal Viagra distribution scheme for more than four years and using his work email to communicate with customers.

A federal grand jury indicted Howard Stanley Head Jr., of Franklin County, on conspiracy and other charges for the scheme authorities say he ran from July 2015 to Oct. 2019, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Head, who worked for the Kentucky Finance & Administration Cabinet at the time, is accused of ordering shipments of the erectile dysfunction drugs Sildenafil and Tadalafil, sold under the brand names Cialis and Viagra, from other countries and reselling them in smaller quantities.

From wire reports

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Packers great Hornung dies at age 84

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Paul Hornung, the dazzling “Golden Boy” of the Green Bay Packers whose singular ability to generate points as a runner, receiver, quarterback and kicker helped turn the team into an NFL dynasty, died Friday. He was 84.

Hornung’s family confirmed his death to the Louisville Sports Commission and to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In July 2016, Hornung sued equipment manufacturer Riddell Inc., saying football helmets he wore during his professional career failed to protect him from brain injury. Hornung suffered multiple concussions with the Packers and had been diagnosed with dementia, the lawsuit said.

Hornung won the 1956 Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame. He was the NFL MVP in 1961 and played on four championship teams (1961, ’62, ’65 and ’66).

He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1986.

Hornung and another of the league’s top stars, Detroit’s Alex Karras, were suspended for 1963 by Commissioner Pete Rozelle for betting on NFL games and associating with undesirable persons. They re-

turned to the NFL the next year.

Hornung won the Heisman as a quarterback. But he switched to halfback in the pros and was one of the NFL’s most dynamic players in Green Bay.

Playing alongside numerous future Hall of Famers, the blond, fun-loving Hornung was a favorite of Packers coach Vince Lombardi, who thought of the young star as a son and singled him out for praise and chastisement. Frequent fines for missing curfew were forgiven once the game started, especially when the dashing No. 5 got close to the end zone.

“In the middle of the field he may be only slightly better than an average ballplayer,” Lombardi once said, “but inside the 20-yard line he is one of the greatest I have ever seen. He smells that goal line.”

Hornung already was on the team when Lombardi arrived in Green Bay in 1959. The Packers made Hornung the first pick of the 1957 draft after he won the Heisman Trophy for a Notre Dame team that went 2-8.

Hornung teamed with bruising fullback Jim Taylor for one of the NFL’s greatest backfields. They were known for the unstoppable power sweeps led

by guards Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston. But Hornung was also a force as a passer, blocker, receiver and kicker. He finished his nine-year career with 760 points on 62 touchdowns, 66 field goals and 190 extra points.

For three straight seasons from 1959-61, Hornung led the NFL in scoring. In 1960 he totaled 176 points, which stood as a league record until LaDainian Tomlinson broke it 46 years later. Hornung later pointed out that his record came in 12 games, while Tomlinson needed 16.

Hornung also passed for two touchdowns in 1960, meaning he had a hand in 188 points, an average of 15.6 per game.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement that Hornung “thrilled a generation of NFL fans with his versatility, athleticism and personality.” Goodell added that Hornung was “instrumental in growing the popularity of the Packers and the National Football League.”

His talent was noticed even in the White House. Hornung almost missed the Packers’ 1961 title game when he was summoned to duty by the Army, but a call from Lombardi to Presi-

dent John F. Kennedy led to Hornung being granted leave.

Said Kennedy in arranging the leave, “Paul Hornung isn’t going to win the war on Sunday, but the football fans of this country deserve the two best teams on the field that day.”

Hornung scored 19 points — then a title game record — on one touchdown rushing, three field goals and four PATs in the Packers’ 37-0 win over the New York Giants.

In 1965, Hornung scored five touchdowns against the Baltimore Colts in a 42-27 victory.

Hornung was on the first Super Bowl team for the 1967 game, but a pinched nerve sidelined him, and he chose not to enter the game when given the chance in the fourth quarter. He was the only Packer who didn’t play in that Super Bowl as Green Bay beat the AFL’s Kansas City Chiefs 35-10 and were led by Hornung’s favorite drinking pal, wide receiver Max McGee.

Hornung was selected by New Orleans in the 1967 expansion draft, a heartbreaking moment for Lombardi. But Hornung never played a game for the Saints, instead retiring.

Rahm joins group of five tied for Masters lead at 135

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jon Rahm had two meaningful shots at the par 5s on the back nine Saturday morning, one for birdie and the other for par, that allowed him to cap a 6-under 66 and join a five-way share of the lead after 36 holes at the Masters.

Tiger Woods remained in the mix with one birdie and seven pars to complete a 71, leaving him four shots behind. Bryson DeChambeau gets two more rounds after making the cut on the number, and then revealing he felt so shaky Thursday night that he had an additional test for the coronavirus.

As the sun broke through the

clouds when the second round ended, it revealed a Masters that even without spectators was shaping up to be as exciting as always.

Ten players were separated by one shot going into the final two rounds, and 27 players were separated by five shots, a list that includes everyone from Woods and Phil Mickelson to Masters newcomers Abraham Ancer and C.T. Pan.

Rahm joined the lead pack at 9-under 135 with a wedge to 5 feet for birdie on the par-5 13th to resume his second round, but the next par 5 meant just as much.

With heavy morning air, dew on the ground and mud

occasionally attaching itself to the golf ball, he chose to lay up and was immediately satisfied with his decision when the ball came off the club and traveled shorter than he imagined. But he overcooked his wedge and went over the green. His fourth shot didn’t reach the putting surface.

Needing to get up-and-down for bogey, he chipped in for par to keep a clean card and join the others at 135 who finished the round Friday — Dustin Johnson and Justin Thomas, Ancer and Cameron Smith.

“It’s not like you’re always trying to make it, but it’s the type of shot where I’m really just looking to start it on the

right line and land it on the green, because that ball will get to the hole and hopefully finds it, and it did,” Rahm said of his par chip. “It was huge. A chip-in is always a huge boost of confidence.”

It was the second consecutive year there was a five-way share of the lead through 36 holes.

The cut was at even-par 144, a Masters record and a reflection of how rain has affected this Masters in November. It caused a delay of nearly three hours at the start of the tournament that caused the opening two rounds to need an extra day to finish, and it made Augusta National as vulnerable as ever.

Virus again scrambles Pac-12 schedule

Associated Press

The Pac-12's football schedule has been scrambled for a second consecutive week, with positive COVID-19 tests leading to the cancellation of Saturday's California at Arizona State and Utah at UCLA games.

Instead, Cal will play UCLA on Sunday at the Rose Bowl. The game will kick off at 9 a.m. PT and the teams will have had less than two full days to prepare for each other.

In a season where every plan is tentative, the Pac-12's quick adjustment is unprecedented.

Friday's announcements from the West Coast capped the most tumultuous week of COVID-19 disruptions of the college football season. Fifteen of the 59 games (25%) originally scheduled for Week 11 were called off.

The Sun Devils' home opener was nixed because of several positive COVID-19 tests among the team's players and coaching staff, including head coach Herm Edwards. The school said the positive tests put the football team below 53 available scholarship players, which is the minimum allowed according to the league's cancellation policy.

"The cancellation of a game is very difficult to accept for all of us, but it is the right decision under the circumstances," Arizona State athletic director Ray Anderson said in a statement. "In every case we continue to consider the health, safety and welfare of our student-athletes as our number one priority."

Later Friday, Utah also determined it didn't have the minimum number of scholarship players available for the game because of positive COVID-19 cases and the resulting isolation of players under contact tracing protocols.

A few hours later, the Pac-12 announced Cal would play at UCLA and next week's UCLA at Oregon game would be bumped back from Friday to Saturday.

"It's an unconventional year and we're excited to host the Bears at the Rose Bowl on Sunday," UCLA athletic director Martin Jarmond said.

Meanwhile, the Southeastern Conference announced it will use Dec. 19, the day of its conference championship game, as a make-up date for regular-season games. The SEC postponed four games this week, including two that could not be immediately rescheduled because two of the teams involved already have make-up games set for Dec. 12.

The SEC also decided that it will allow schedule adjustments to be made on Monday nights. Teams will be permitted to find opponents if their scheduled opponent for the coming Saturday can't play. Those hastily scheduled matchups can only be made between teams already scheduled to play each other and no rematches will be permitted.

"The added flexibility of a Dec. 19 playing date for teams that do not qualify for the SEC Football Championship and the ability to adjust opponents on five-day notification provide a greater opportunity for our schools to play a full schedule of games

in 2020," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

The Pac-12 said the canceled games will be declared a no contest. It's Arizona State and UCLA's first cancellation of the year. The Sun Devils lost to USC 28-27 last weekend. UCLA lost to Colorado 48-42 last weekend.

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham had said earlier this week that the Utes were teetering on the edge of not having enough players available.

"We are doing our best to play the game, but if we lose many more guys this week, it may be a situation where we are not able to," Whittingham said.

It's the second straight week that the Pac-12's abbreviated six-game schedule has been interrupted. The Utah-Arizona and California-Washington games were both canceled in Week 1.

The 66-year-old Edwards said in a statement he and his family are fine and encouraged fans to take the virus seriously.

"As I've stated many times over, the health, safety and well-being of our student-athletes is absolutely paramount and we will not put them at risk," Edwards said. "Our team has worked extremely hard to get to this point, and even played a game last weekend. We will continue to care for our students-athletes and follow all protocols very thoroughly as we prepare for our next game. Our team and coaching staff are disappointed, but we do understand what we are dealing with."

No. 7 Bearcats have easy time with East Carolina

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Desmond Ridder had another big game, and Cincinnati's defense got revenge.

Ridder threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score to help No. 7 Cincinnati rout East Carolina 55-17 on Friday night.

Cincinnati (7-0, 5-0 American Athletic) extended its school-record home winning streak to 19 games, the fourth-longest streak among FBS schools, and kept its hopes alive for a College Football Playoff berth.

Ridder has accounted for 17 touchdowns in the past four games, including nine rushing

TDs.

"Once plays break down and I see a hole, I just go," Ridder said. "The offensive line has done a great job. The preparation has been good."

In Cincinnati's three-point victory at East Carolina last year, the Pirates scored 43 points and piled up 638 yards. The Bearcats were motivated to prevent a repeat.

ECU had 293 total yards on Friday, more than 100 yards below its season average.

"The defense had an edge, a chip on their shoulder," said James Wiggins, the senior cornerback who had five tackles and his first interception of the season.

The offense got off to a fast start with Ridder's 33-yard touchdown pass to Michael Young to cap a 79-yard drive on their opening possession.

"Desmond Ridder is a talented quarterback," East Carolina coach Mike Houston said. "He makes them go. I think he's an NFL type quarterback."

The Bearcats' offense produced 653 total yards and averaged nearly 10 yards per play.

Cincinnati had second-and-goal at the Pirates 3, but lost a fumble at the 5. Six plays later, however, Bearcats linebacker Jarell White returned an interception 26 yards for a touchdown.

After punting on three of

its first four possessions, East Carolina (1-6, 1-5) drove 58 yards in three plays, pulling to 14-7 on Keaton Mitchell's 18-yard run.

Ridder's 16-yard scramble on third-and-12 set up Jerome Ford's 24-yard touchdown run, and Tre Tucker's 45-yard touchdown reception highlighted a 28-point second quarter.

After passing for 535 yards against the Bearcats last season, Holton Ahlers threw for 87 yards Friday with three interceptions. He was sacked four times.

"There was definitely a different feel than last year," Bearcats coach Luke Fickell said.

NFL rookies shining despite limitations

Associated Press

If ever there were a year in the NFL when newcomers could be forgiven for a lack of progress, this virus-altered season would be it.

Spring practices vanished, making rookie development across the league more difficult. Plenty of first-year players had growth that was stunted by the lack of in-person learning and exhibition games.

“We had a virtual draft, virtual offseason. Virtual is for the birds,” Las Vegas Raiders coach Jon Gruden said. “I think it doesn’t help get these young guys ready as it did in years past.”

Talent is talent, though. Midway through the 2020 season, numerous newbies are making significant impacts. Pandemic or not, these guys can play — and right away.

“A guy that’s played in every game is pretty well caught up at this point,” said Dolphins offensive coordinator Chan Gailey, whose team has won both games since turning the quar-

terback job over to Tua Tagovailoa after Ryan Fitzpatrick allowed him to ease in.

The level of skill coming from the major college programs, particularly in the passing game, has never been more apparent. With this salary cap system that magnifies the value of rookie-level contracts, the demand for young stars has also never been higher.

Three of the first six picks in the draft were quarterbacks, and Joe Burrow (Cincinnati Bengals), Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert (Los Angeles Chargers) can count as instant successes. Burrow has five games with 300-plus passing yards, one short of Andrew Luck’s record for Indianapolis in 2012.

For Burrow, the first overall selection from national champion LSU, the progress was palpable by the final drive of an otherwise-uninspiring debut in a three-point defeat by the Chargers on Sept. 13.

“That really calmed my nerves and let me know that I could play at this level,” Bur-

row said.

Herbert will square off against Tagovailoa on Sunday when the Chargers visit the Dolphins, just the seventh NFL game since 1967 pitting two rookie starters at quarterback who were both taken in the top six picks of the draft. Herbert has passed for 2,146 yards for the second-highest total in league history over a player’s first seven games, and the Chargers are second in the NFL in total yards.

The wide receiver class has largely delivered on its promise, too, with Jerry Jeudy (Denver Broncos), CeeDee Lamb (Dallas Cowboys), Justin Jefferson (Minnesota Vikings), Tee Higgins (Bengals) and Chase Claypool (Pittsburgh Steelers) the standouts of the 11 pass-catchers taken in the top 50 picks.

“I’ve never really looked at it as me being the rookie, the new guy. I always try to take everything like a veteran takes it,” said Jefferson, who leads all first-year players with 627 receiving yards. “Not trying to have that rookie mindset. Not

waiting for somebody to lead me in the right direction.”

Claypool, who has 444 yards and five touchdowns for the NFL’s only undefeated team, recently theorized that the absence of a normal preseason might have actually helped more than hurt.

“The urgency increases when you’re getting ready for a regular-season game,” Claypool said. “I knew I had to have the playbook down before the first game, so that forced me to study more.”

Kansas City’s Clyde Edwards-Helaire, a college teammate of Burrow and Jefferson, was the only running back taken in the first round. He’s on pace for a 1,000-yard season on the ground. Fellow ball carriers D’Andre Swift (Detroit Lions), Jonathan Taylor (Indianapolis Colts) and Antonio Gibson (Washington Football Team) have each been integral parts of their respective offenses, as has the undrafted king of the 2020 class, James Robinson of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Saints’ D-line gaining steam at season’s halfway point

Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — One week after battering Tampa Bay’s Tom Brady into one of the worst games of his career, a New Orleans Saints pass rush led by previously unheralded reserve Trey Hendrickson aims to muster a similar effort against San Francisco backup Nick Mullens.

“The work’s not done. We’re only eight games in. So I’m hungry,” Hendrickson said when asked about his career-best 7½ sacks this season, which ranks third in the NFL. “I don’t think anybody in a race wants to take third. But, that’s why I’m fortunate enough to have an opportunity to keep getting them these next eight games.”

Halfway through the season, the Saints have had nine players combine for 22 sacks — with eight of those sacks coming in

just the past two games. That leaves them slightly off the pace of last season, when they had 50 sacks. But New Orleans also had to play its first four games without starting end Marcus Davenport because of his elbow and toe injuries.

Former Cal star Cameron Jordan, who has led the Saints in sacks for the past five seasons, has been limited to 2½ sacks by opposing offensive fronts that are scheming to stop him with double teams. But increasingly, the Saints are finding ways to make opponents pay for that.

Defensive tackle David Onyemata has three sacks, while linebacker Demario Davis and safety Malcolm Jenkins have taken down QBs on blitzes a couple of times apiece.

The 49ers’ beat-up offensive line has allowed 23 sacks. Mullens, who has appeared in

five games and started three because of injuries to Jimmy Garoppolo, has been taken down nine times.

It hasn’t helped that a few top 49ers skill players have been injured lately, with running back Raheem Mostert (ankle) missing the past three games and star tight end George Kittle (foot) going out for possibly the rest of the season two games ago.

“Each week gets more and more important to protect and to continue to get better, whether it’s technique, communication, scheme, whatever it is,” Niners offensive tackle Mike McGlinchey said. “But there’s not more pressure to protect Nick. He’ll be fine and he does his job as good as anybody.”

The Saints’ defensive front also has demonstrated that when it doesn’t get sacks, it can

still make QBs less effective as passers.

In a 38-3 demolition of the Buccaneers last Sunday night, Brady, who was sacked three times in the game, often looked uncomfortable throwing the ball. He was intercepted three times, including once by Onyemata on a ball batted at the line of scrimmage by both Davenport and Jordan.

Brady completed less than 60% of his passes, releasing numerous throws as he was about to get knocked down.

“We were fortunate enough to be a part of the keys to victory, getting after the quarterback and affecting Tom, getting them off the spot,” Hendrickson said. “So, when you’re doing something like that, and being successful at it, and the team’s winning, it feels good when we’re rolling and it’s a huge help in the secondary, too.”