

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Slight economic rebound appears shaky

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week to 751,000, the lowest since March, but it's still historically high and indicates the viral pandemic is forcing many employers to cut jobs.

Applications for unemployment aid fell 40,000 from the previous week, the Labor Department said Thursday. They fell in 30 states, including big drops in California, Florida and Texas. Claims rose significantly in Arizona, Illinois and Michigan.

Rising confirmed virus cases in nearly every state, along with a cutoff in federal aid, are threatening to weaken the economy in the coming months. As temperatures fall, restaurants and bars will likely serve fewer customers outdoors. And many consumers could increasingly stay home to avoid infection. Those trends could force employers to slash more jobs during the winter.

The seven-day rolling average for confirmed new cases in the United States soared over the past two weeks from 51,161 to 71,832, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

The government said Thursday that the economy expanded at a record 33% annual rate in the July-September quarter. That's

a sharp rebound after an epic collapse in the spring, when the economy shrank at a 31.4% annual rate. Yet the increase recovers only about two-thirds of what was lost to the pandemic.

And growth is believed to be slowing sharply in the final three months of the year to a roughly 3% annual rate.

With Congress having failed to agree on any further stimulus this year, millions of unemployed Americans who will lose all their jobless benefits in the coming weeks and months will likely pull back further on spending.

Without another round of loans from the government, many small companies will also go out of business.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department said the number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits fell more than 700,000 to 7.76 million. The decline shows that some of the unemployed are being recalled to their old jobs or are finding new ones. But it also indicates that many jobless Americans have used up their state unemployment aid — which typically expires after six months — and have transitioned to a federal extended benefits program that lasts an additional 13 weeks.

The still-elevated number of jobless claims underscores that a full recovery

from the pandemic recession remains far off. Job growth has slowed for three straight months, leaving the economy still 10.7 million jobs short of its pre-pandemic level. The unemployment rate remains high at 7.9%.

Layoffs have continued at some large companies. Boeing said Wednesday that it will now cut 30,000 jobs by the end of next year, almost one-fifth of its entire workforce, up from an earlier announcement that it would shed 19,000.

Home and auto sales have emerged as bright spots in the economy and have helped strengthen U.S. manufacturing. But the pandemic recession, unlike previous downturns, has done much more harm to in-person services and cost the jobs of millions of workers at restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters.

Those businesses have suffered from government shutdown orders, some of which might now be revived as the virus surges.

In a sign of caution, Americans boosted their savings over the summer, banking a big chunk of the \$1,200 checks that had gone to most individuals and a now-expired \$600-a-week federal jobless benefit. Both were contained in a \$2 trillion stimulus package that Congress approved in the spring.

## Zeta barrels across Southeast after hitting Louisiana

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Zeta sped across the Southeast on Thursday, leaving a trail of damage and more than 2 million homes and businesses without power in Atlanta and beyond after pounding New Orleans with winds and water that splintered homes and were blamed for at least three deaths.

A Category 2 hurricane when it hit the southeastern Louisiana coast Wednesday, Zeta was still a tropical storm Thursday morning with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph about 50 miles west of Asheville, N.C.— unusual even in a region accustomed to hurricanes and their aftermath.

Hundreds of schools canceled classes or planned to open late across from the Gulf Coast to the Carolinas.

The latest punch from a record hurricane season left people shaken. Will Arute said it sounded like a bomb went off when part of a large oak snapped outside his home in New Orleans, and part of the tree crashed into his car and a corner of his home.

"I did not anticipate this to happen. It was pretty intense along the eye wall when it went through here," he said.

Officials said life-threatening conditions would last into the day, with Zeta crossing the mid-Atlantic states as a tropical storm before moving offshore around Delaware and southern New Jersey.

Leslie Richardson, 58, drowned when he was trapped in rising seawater in Biloxi, Miss., after taking video of the raging storm, Harrison County Coroner Brian

Switzer said. Richardson and another man exited a floating car and desperately clung to a tree before his strength "just gave out," Switzer said. About 25 miles west in Long Beach, a large boat was washed up on the beachfront highway.

In Louisiana, a 55-year-old man was electrocuted by a downed power line in New Orleans, a coroner said. In Georgia, authorities said a man was killed when high winds caused a tree to fall onto a mobile home in Cherokee County.

Power outages were reported across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, according to the website PowerOutage.us. Georgia had the most outages before dawn with more than 1 million customers in the dark.

# 3 die in stabbing attack inside French church

Associated Press

PARIS — An attacker armed with a knife killed three people inside a church Thursday in the Mediterranean city of Nice, French authorities said, prompting the country to raise its security alert status to the highest level.

It was the third attack in two months in France that authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher. It comes amid a growing furor over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were republished by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo — renewing vociferous debate in France and the Muslim world over the depictions that Muslims consider offensive but are protected by

French free speech laws.

Other confrontations and attacks were reported Thursday in the southern French city of Avignon and in the Saudi city of Jiddah, but it was not immediately clear if they were linked to the attack in Nice.

“He cried ‘Allah Akbar!’ over and over, even after he was injured,” said Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi, who told BFM television that two women and a man had died, two inside the church and a third who fled to a nearby bar but was mortally wounded. “The meaning of his gesture left no doubt.”

The assailant in Nice was wounded by police and hospitalized after the killings at the Notre Dame Basilica, less than a half-mile from the site in 2016

where another attacker plowed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd, killing dozens of people.

Shots punctuated the air and witnesses screamed as police stationed at the grandiose doors to the church appeared to fire at the attacker inside, according to videos obtained by The Associated Press. Hours later, AP reporters at the scene saw emergency vehicles and police tape lining the wide Notre Dame Avenue leading toward the plaza in front of the basilica.

France’s anti-terrorism prosecutor’s office opened an investigation into the attack, the third one since a trial opened in September for people linked to the 2015 attacks at Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermar-

ket by gunmen who claimed allegiance to Islamic State and al-Qaida. The trial is nearing its end, with a verdict planned for Nov. 13, the fifth anniversary of another series of deadly ISIS attacks in Paris.

Thursday’s attacker was believed to be acting alone, said two police officials, who were not authorized to be publicly named.

In Avignon on Thursday morning, an armed man was shot to death by police after he refused to drop his weapon and a flash-ball shot failed to stop him, one police official said. And a Saudi state-run news agency said a man stabbed a guard at the French Consulate in Jiddah, wounding the guard before he was arrested.

## Pompeo lauds Indonesia for standing up to China

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo renewed the Trump administration’s rhetorical onslaught against China in Indonesia on Thursday as the American presidential election looms.

With China a central theme in President Donald Trump’s campaign to win a second term in just five days’ time, Pompeo

took aim at Chinese aggressiveness in the South China Sea, where it has advanced maritime and territorial claims over the objections of its smaller neighbors.

Speaking in Jakarta, the headquarters of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Pompeo praised Indonesia’s leadership in ASEAN for pushing back on what he called China’s “unlawful” claims and

lauded Jakarta’s protection of its own territory. He also attacked Beijing for its treatment of religious minorities, calling China “the gravest threat to the future of religious freedom.”

Delivering a speech on religious freedom in the capital of the world’s most populous Muslim nation, Pompeo denounced the Chinese Communist Party for its reported mass abuses of Muslim minorities. Earlier, in

an appearance with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Pompeo took China to task for threatening its neighbors.

“We respect freedom of the seas, sovereignty and the rule of law,” he said, standing beside Marsudi. Marsudi agreed, saying “any claims should be based on universally recognized principle of international law,” although she did not specifically mention China.

## Evacuation lifted for thousands in Calif. after wildfires

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of Californians were allowed to return to their homes Wednesday as calmer winds helped firefighters beat back two wind-driven wildfires that had spurred widespread evacuations.

Roughly 100,000 people were ordered to evacuate Monday after the wildfires broke out in brushy hills above cities in Southern California’s Orange County amid fierce winds

and extremely dry weather conditions.

On Wednesday, evacuation orders were lifted for all residents in the city of Irvine about 35 miles south of Los Angeles, which saw more than a quarter of its 280,000 people forced from their homes. Evacuation orders were also lifted for the nearby Blue Ridge Fire, where thousands of people in Yorba Linda and neighboring communities had been under orders to flee.

Firefighters made progress

as the winds subsided and the spread of the flames slowed. The Irvine-area Silverado Fire was 32% contained by Wednesday evening, and the Blue Ridge Fire to the north was 23% surrounded after being virtually uncontained a day earlier.

“With favorable weather, fire crews will find opportunities to establish more control lines,” the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said in a statement.

The Silverado Fire burned

21 square miles. No homes were lost but two firefighters remained hospitalized after suffering second- and third-degree burns over large areas of their bodies, Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessey said.

The Blue Ridge Fire, at 22.4 square miles, destroyed one structure and damaged seven.

Scientists have said climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

# Pelosi scolds White House on virus talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a scolding assessment of COVID-19 relief talks on Thursday, blaming Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin for failing to produce answers to her demands for Democratic priorities as part of an almost \$2 trillion aid package.

Pelosi lobbed her latest public relations volley with a letter to Mnuchin that blames Republicans for the failed talks, which ground on for three months only to crater in the final days before the election. Where the talks go after the election is wholly uncertain.

Pelosi says remaining obstacles to an agreement include more than half a dozen big-

ticket items, including a testing plan, aid to state and local governments, funding for schools, jobless benefits and a GOP-sought shield against coronavirus-related lawsuits.

Republicans, who say Pelosi has been unyielding in the talks, will control the White House and the Senate until January regardless of the outcome of Tuesday's election, and have pressed for a more targeted aid package that ignores key Pelosi demands. They say items like refundable tax credits for the working poor and families with children aren't directly related to fighting COVID-19 and charge that Pelosi has slow-walked the negotiations to deny President Donald Trump a victory before Election Day.

Pelosi's letter to Mnuchin

comes as markets are reeling from a coronavirus surge across the country and Washington's failure to agree on another virus relief package.

"As the coronavirus surges and the stock market plummets, we are still awaiting the Trump Administration's promised responses on multiple items of critical importance," Pelosi wrote. "Your responses are critical for our negotiations to continue."

The California Democrat has played hardball in the talks and has for months demanded a \$2 trillion-plus COVID-19 rescue deal that's larger than the landmark \$1.8 trillion CARES Act that swept through Congress in March. Legislation has twice passed the House, but the GOP-held Senate has been

gridlocked.

The White House shot back that Pelosi is uninterested in compromising on major issues.

"I don't think this recovery depends on the assistance package, per se, but I do think unemployment assistance, (Payroll Protection Program) small business assistance, helping the schools — that could have helped a lot and it's not going to happen," said White House economic adviser Larry Ludlow on Fox News. "The Democrats have been completely intransigent."

Recent weeks of secretive talks have been accompanied by optimistic talk from Pelosi and at times from her administration counterparts — but no results.

## Philadelphia police pledge better response after Black man's death

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia police pledged to release 911 tapes and police body camera footage "in the near future" in the shooting death of a Black man with a history of mental health problems, a death that prompted protests, widespread vandalism and an overnight curfew days before Election Day.

Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw pledged to release the video evidence once the department shares it with the family of Walter Wallace Jr.

Outlaw, who came to Philadelphia less than a year ago from Portland, Ore., lamented at a news conference Wednesday that her department lacks a mental health unit or consistent way to coordinate police calls with specialists.

"We don't have a behavioral health unit, which is sorely needed," said Outlaw, when asked about reports that police had been called to the home twice before that day. "There's

clearly a disconnect on our end in terms of knowing what's out there" at the scene.

Police say they fatally shot Wallace on Monday after he ignored orders to drop a knife, a death that intensified already heightened tensions in the presidential battleground state. Wallace's mother said she warned police Monday afternoon that her son was in the throes of a mental health crisis.

In the days since, more than 90 people have been arrested and about 50 police officers injured in clashes with protesters and vandals, including the 1,000 or so who suddenly swarmed a shopping center Tuesday night, breaking windows and stealing merchandise. That scene erupted on the other side of the city, miles from Wallace's neighborhood, where protests were underway.

"We had zero information to warn us of this," Deputy Commissioner Melvin Singleton said. "By that time ... the damage was done."

## Ex-DHS official says he wrote 'Anonymous' critique

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former Trump administration official who penned a scathing anti-Trump op-ed and book under the pen name "Anonymous" revealed himself Wednesday as a former chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security.

The official, Miles Taylor, came forward six days before Election Day to criticize President Donald Trump as "a man without character." He said he hoped other former administration officials will "find their conscience when they wake up tomorrow" and speak up, too.

Taylor has been an outspoken critic of Trump's in recent months and had repeatedly denied he was the author of the column and subsequent book — even to colleagues at CNN, where he has a contributor contract. He left the Trump administration in June 2019 and endorsed Democrat Joe Biden for president this summer.

Trump and White House officials moved quickly to describe Taylor as someone with little standing and clout.

"This guy is a low-level low-life that I don't know. I have no idea who he is, other than I got to see him a little while ago on television," Trump told a campaign rally crowd in Arizona.

But as DHS chief of staff, Taylor was in many White House meetings with the president on his border policy and other major Homeland Security issues. During Taylor's time as chief of staff, Trump threatened to shut down the border and his administration developed the policy to force asylum seekers to wait across the U.S.-Mexico border.

During a CNN appearance with Chris Cuomo Wednesday night, Taylor said he didn't unmask himself earlier because the story would have disappeared within 48 hours.

"No one would pay attention and they wouldn't care," he said.

Taylor's anonymous essay was published in September 2018 by The New York Times, infuriating the president and setting off a frantic White House leak investigation to try to unmask the author.

# Biden shuns 'false promises' of fast fix

Associated Press

BULLHEAD CITY, Ariz. — Focused firmly on COVID-19, Joe Biden vowed Wednesday not to campaign in the election homestretch “on the false promises of being able to end this pandemic by flipping a switch.” President Donald Trump, under attack for his handling of the worst health crisis in more than a century, breezily pledged on his final-week swing to “vanquish the virus.”

The Democratic presidential nominee also argued that a Supreme Court conservative majority stretched to 6-3 by newly confirmed Justice Amy Coney Barrett could dismantle the Obama administration’s signature health law and leave millions without insurance coverage during the pandemic. He called Trump’s handling of the coronavirus an “insult” to its victims, especially as cases spike dramatically around the country.

“Even if I win, it’s going to take a lot of hard work to end this pandemic,” Biden said during a speech in Wilmington, Del. “I do promise this: We will start on day one doing the right things.”

His comments reflected an unwavering attempt to keep the political spotlight on the pandemic. That was a departure from the president, who downplayed the threat and spent his day in Arizona, where relaxed rules on social distancing made staging big rallies easier.

The pandemic’s consequences were escalating, with deaths climbing in 39 states and an average of 805 people dying daily nationwide — up from 714 two weeks ago. Overall, about 227,000 Americans have died. The sharp rise sent shock waves through financial markets, causing the Dow Jones Industrial Average to drop 900-plus points.

Trump, who frequently lauds rising markets, failed to mention the decline. But he prom-

ised that economic growth figures for the summer quarter, due Thursday, would be strong, declaring during a rally in Bullhead City, Ariz., “This election is a choice between a Trump super-recovery and a Biden depression.”

As Trump spoke, an Air Force fighter thundered nearby and released a flare to get the attention of a non-responsive private aircraft that was flying in the restricted airspace. North American Aerospace Defense Command said the plane was escorted out by the F-16 “without further incident.” Trump was at first caught off guard but later cheered the fighter, proclaiming, “I love that sound” as it roared overhead.

The president also condemned violence that occurred during some protests in response to the police shooting of Walter Wallace Jr., a Black man, in Philadelphia saying Biden stands “with the rioters and the vandals.”

But Biden said in Wilming-

ton, “There is no excuse whatsoever for the looting and the violence.”

Bullhead City is just across the border from Nevada, a state Trump is hoping to flip during Election Day next Tuesday. A Trump rally last month in Nevada attracted thousands and led to the airport that hosted it being fined more than \$5,500 for violating pandemic crowd restrictions.

Rather than curb his crowd, Trump moved just across the border and used his rally Wednesday to scoff at Democratic leaders in states like Nevada for trying to enforce social distancing rules.

The weather was far milder than during a Tuesday night Trump rally in Omaha, Neb. After Trump left that one, hundreds of attendees at Eppley Airfield spent hours waiting in the cold for transportation to cars parked far away. Several people were taken to hospitals amid concerns about exposure.

## Trump paints apocalyptic portrait of life under Biden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The suburbs wouldn’t be the suburbs anymore, the economy would sink into its worst depression ever and police departments would cease to exist. Even America’s older adults would be left to figure out how to get by without heat, air conditioning or electricity.

This is the apocalyptic version of American life that President Donald Trump argues would be the dire consequence of turning over the White House to Democrat Joe Biden.

“He’ll bury you in regulations, dismantle your police departments, dissolve our borders, confiscate your guns, terminate religious liberty, destroy your suburbs,” Trump said in one of many over-the-top pronouncements about Biden in the campaign’s final weeks. Trump typically makes his warning about the fate of suburbia as he showcases his own decision to end federal regulations that govern the placement of low-income housing in the suburbs.

Campaign rhetoric can often become heated and hyperbolic as candidates scrap

for every last advantage before the votes are counted.

Experts say instilling fear in one’s opponent is usually the primary motivating factor behind such talk as candidates seek to give voters a reason to put a checkmark next to their name on the ballot.

“It’s pure fear and fear based on a particular kind of ignorance that only works if your hearers have that particular kind of ignorance,” Robin Lakoff, professor emerita of linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, said of Trump’s claims about Biden.

Trump made fear — particularly the fear of immigrants — a major theme of his 2016 campaign. Now, he is giving voters a laundry list of mostly implausible reasons to fear a Biden presidency.

“This election is a choice between a TRUMP RECOVERY or a BIDEN DEPRESSION,” the president tweeted, echoing what he tells supporters at rallies. “It’s a choice between a TRUMP BOOM or a BIDEN LOCKDOWN. It’s a choice between our plan to Kill the virus — or Biden’s plan to kill the American Dream!”

Trump has criticized Biden for saying

he’d follow the scientists, and the president claims the Democrat would shut the country down. In fact, Biden hasn’t said whether he’d endorse large-scale shutdowns of the nation’s economy, if things get drastically worse, like much of the country did in March.

“If you vote for Biden, it means no kids in school, no graduations, no weddings, no Thanksgiving, no Christmas and no Fourth of July together,” Trump said at a rally Wednesday in Goodyear, Ariz. “Other than that, you have a wonderful life.”

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, said Trump’s rhetoric is effective with people who are already disposed to believe such things about Biden. But to a person who is not in the audience, she said, such talk is a “sign of desperation.”

“The problem with the rhetoric is it’s an alienating rhetoric for people who hear it as extreme and improbable,” Jamieson said. It’s also problematic, she said, “because you expect a president of the United States to calibrate his rhetoric to reality in at least some plausible way.”

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Harley-Davidson now in electric bicycle market

**WI** MILWAUKEE—Iconic motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson is jumping into the hot market for electric bicycles.

The Milwaukee-based company has unveiled a new brand known as Serial 1 Cycle Co., taking the nickname of Harley-Davidson's first motorcycle.

Serial 1 brand director Aaron Frank says the e-bicycle market is going gangbusters right now, largely due to COVID-19.

"With the pandemic, people were looking for a safe way to exercise and get out of the house, and people in cities were looking for a way to safely commute that didn't involve a subway or a bus," Frank said.

The electric bikes have a small motor and a battery that generates power assistance beyond just pedaling.

The Serial 1 bikes are designed and developed in Milwaukee and are manufactured in Taiwan. They are expected to hit the market early next year. Prices have not yet been disclosed.

## Police: Man stole car with baby inside

**VA** RICHMOND — A man accused of stealing a running vehicle with a baby inside has been arrested in Virginia.

Officers found the abandoned vehicle about 10 minutes after it was stolen in Richmond early Monday morning, the city's police department said in a news release. The child was unharmed.

Police arrested Stefon R. Dunkley in connection with the incident after a brief foot chase Monday evening, the release said.

## Man with 28 DWIs dies after leaving prison

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man with 28 arrests for drunken driving has died weeks after leaving prison for his latest offense.

An online obituary says Danny Lee Bettcher, 67, of New York Mills, died last week from what his family said were natural causes.

Bettcher was released from the Moose Lake prison on Sept. 28 and placed on supervised release after he was sentenced in 2018 by an Otter Tail County judge for driving drunk, his 28 offense. Bettcher had a valid driver's license despite spending much of the past 10 years in and out of jails and prison for drinking and driving, the Star Tribune reported.

His obituary said Bettcher's "life may be best described as wayward," but that he "would help anyone with anything and deep down had a heart of gold."

Bettcher served in the Minnesota National Guard.

## Inmate fired officer's gun outside hospital

**AZ** PHOENIX — Authorities said a Maricopa County inmate took away an officer's gun and fired one round outside a Phoenix hospital a week ago when she was taken out of jail for a medical appointment.

No one was injured in the Oct. 20 shooting, and officers were able to take back the gun.

Jovana Kelsey McCreary is accused of grabbing the officer's handgun as she was about to be brought back to jail.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, whose officers had taken McCreary to the Maricopa Medical Center, said the inmate had to be taken

to a sheriff's van in a wheelchair because she had become uncooperative.

McCreary, who was restrained with handcuffs, shackles and a belly belt, stood up and tried to walk away when officers were loading her into the van. As officers steered her to the back of the van, a struggle ensued in which McCreary took the gun out of the officer's holster and fired one shot.

## Felon flees stop, drags police on car windows

**FL** DAYTONA BEACH — A convicted Florida felon ended up dragging two officers who were hanging onto his car windows when he fled a traffic stop, police said.

Officers saw Kary Jarvis, 39, run a stop sign last Friday and pulled him over. When police asked to search the car, he sped away while both officers hung onto the windows. He dragged one about 30 feet. The other officer fell and hit a tree, according to Daytona Beach Police.

Jarvis crashed into a retention ditch and was taken into custody at gunpoint. The officers were treated at the hospital and released. He was charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer and aggravated fleeing and eluding, trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was being held in jail without bail.

## Museum to study, then restore dinosaur skull

**CO** DENVER — The Denver Museum of Nature and Science has announced it will study a triceratops skull known as Pops for up to a year before returning it to Weld County for residents to enjoy.

Museum curator Joe Sertich contacted the county in 2018

about studying the fossil and said that in exchange, he would clean and repair it to ensure it stays in good condition, The Greeley Tribune reported this week.

Kenneth Carpenter, a University of Colorado paleontologist and professor, discovered Pops in 1982 about 40 miles east of Fort Collins. Roland Mapelli, owner of the property where it was found, donated the fossil to the county. It is the first complete triceratops skull found in the state, according to county officials. Scientists believe it is about 60 million years old.

The Denver museum said the fossil will be on display in the laboratory window as part of the Prehistoric Journey Exhibit, and photos and discoveries are expected to be shared on social media.

Pops is expected to be back on display at the Weld County Administration Building in late 2021.

## Developer drops plans for large wind farm

**WI** TOWN OF JEFFERSON — The developer of a controversial wind farm in Green County has scrapped plans for the project.

EDF Renewables had planned to build 24 turbines in the Town of Jefferson near the Illinois border. Participating landowners have received letters notifying them that EDF Renewables was terminating its lease agreements. The developer did not say why.

The project was expected to generate about \$250,000 a year in tax revenue for the town and county in addition to some \$300,000 a year in rent for participating landowners, the State Journal reported. It also generated opposition from some residents who feared it would affect property values and health.

From wire reports

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# Steelers try to keep sack streak alive

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The play that launched one of the most impressive streaks in NFL history began innocently — or maybe menacingly is the better word — with James Harrison in full flight, his No. 92 a blur as he chased down Joe Flacco for a 12-yard loss on a sunny afternoon in Baltimore.

The meeting between the longtime Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker and the former Baltimore Ravens quarterback midway through the third quarter on Nov. 6, 2016, ultimately had little impact on the outcome.

Flacco and the Ravens withstood a late rally to hold off the Steelers for a 21-14 victory best remembered for Pittsburgh kicker Chris Boswell's botched onside attempt in the final moments.

Still, four years later, not a game has passed in which the Steelers have failed to take down a quarterback. Pittsburgh extended its streak to 63 and counting after toppling Tennessee's Ryan Tannehill twice in a 27-24 victory last weekend

that pushed the Steelers to 6-0 for the first time in 42 years.

Pittsburgh can move closer to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' all-time mark of 69 when it visits the Ravens (5-1) on Sunday with first place in the AFC North on the line. All the Steelers have to do is slow down Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson. The reigning NFL MVP is one of the league's most dynamic players, equally as dangerous with his legs as he is with his right arm. Asked about the key to keeping Jackson "in check," Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin is still looking for it. So are 30 other teams.

"I wish I had the answer to that," Tomlin said. "I wish the National Football League had the answer to that. 'In check' is a strong term, one that I choose not to use. We're just going to play to the best of our abilities, we are going to play within our personality, and we need to be on the details. We need to play fast and play collectively together and hopefully that is enough."

It nearly was enough last season, when the Steelers sacked Jackson five times — still the

most he's taken in 28 career starts — and picked off three passes before falling in overtime. While defensive end Cam Heyward took no solace in his group's effectiveness because Pittsburgh lost, Jackson is wary while playing behind an offensive line that has struggled to protect him. The Ravens have allowed 16 sacks through five games, already closing in on the total (23) it allowed in all of 2019 when Jackson was behind center.

"Their defensive line is great," Jackson said. "Their front four, they like to get off the ball and get to the quarterback. Lot of strip sacks. (Linebacker) T.J. Watt does a great job getting to the quarterback, harassing the running game. I feel our offensive line is going to be ready."

Few have been over the last four years, a stretch in which the Steelers have reclaimed their status as the NFL's best pass-rushing team. The makeover began when Hall of Fame defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau was let go in January 2015 and longtime outside linebackers coach Keith Butler was

promoted. Pittsburgh jumped from 26th in sacks in 2014 to fourth in 2015 and has finished at the top in each of the last three seasons.

It helps to load up on edge rushers, as the Steelers did by taking outside linebacker Bud Dupree in the first round in 2015 and Watt in the same round two years later. That kind of talent can make it easy to create chaos in the backfield. Maybe the most impressive thing about Pittsburgh's streak is how frequently its rushers are getting home. The Steelers have only finished with one sack in a game nine times during their run while collecting at least five sacks in a game 16 times.

"I think it's just our level of discipline, understanding rush lanes," Heyward said. "Guys are watching film on their own and then we're collectively talking about how we want to rush a guy, what we want to do in certain situations. But you've got to have that cohesiveness and a group of guys willing to do that. It can't just be one guy, one cowboy just trying to do his own show."

## Versatile LB Warner steadies banged-up 49ers 'D'

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco's secondary has been decimated by injuries. Top edge rushers Nick Bosa and Dee Ford haven't been on the field for weeks.

Yet the 49ers defense has still managed to perform at a high level almost every week thanks in large part to the play of middle linebacker Fred Warner.

Warner has been the main reason why his unit hasn't faltered despite starting 22 players on defense while dealing with injuries to the entire starting secondary, as well as several front seven players.

"I've always almost held myself to the highest standard," Warner said Wednesday. "I'm the one in the middle, the one

that everybody is looking at every single day, every play. So as long as I'm on point, I know that we can continue to get better and better. I got a great group of guys around me and they make it easy on me for sure."

But it's Warner who makes it easier on everyone else with his versatility to excel in coverage, against the run and as a blitzer.

He also has an outstanding ability to diagnose plays and get the Niners into the proper defense no matter the situation.

"He's special. He's special in the sense that he recognizes things that are happening on the football field," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "He recognizes things on tape. You can put a lot on his plate in

terms of getting people lined up and making checks and getting us into the right defense. That gives you flexibility as a play-caller and as a coaching staff to know that you can create a defense that's designed to be with different layers of checks, that will help us be in the right defense based on what the offense shows."

The Niners have always believed in Warner ever since he arrived as a third-round pick out of BYU in 2018. He has started every game since entering the league and his teammates believed he was overlooked when it came time for awards last season when he helped San Francisco reach the Super Bowl.

Some have bestowed him the nickname "All-Pro Fred" and

his play has gotten others on board with CBS analyst Tony Romo calling him the "best linebacker" during last week's broadcast and saying he was unable to find any flaws.

"He's the quarterback out there," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "The calls he makes, all the confusing things that people do offensively with the motions and change of strengths and how he gets us lined up. When you play zone defense a lot, you better have some good guys inside who look at the quarterback and I think Fred is as good as anyone."

After playing mostly a nickel back role in college, Warner is one of the best coverage linebackers in the league with the 55.9 rating he's allowed on throws in his direction.

# MLB says LA's Turner violated protocols

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Justin Turner violated coronavirus protocols when he celebrated with his Los Angeles Dodgers teammates and he refused instructions from security to leave the field, behavior that Major League Baseball said risked the safety of others.

The commissioner's office said Wednesday it is starting a full investigation of the 35-year-old third baseman.

The Dodgers won their first World Series championship since 1988 with a 3-1 victory over Tampa Bay in Game 6 on Tuesday night at Globe Life Field.

Turner was pulled from the game following the seventh inning after MLB was notified that he had tested positive for COVID-19. He was quarantined in a doctor's office off to the side, Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew

Friedman said.

Turner later returned to the field with a mask to celebrate the Dodgers' title. He then took down his mask and posed for a team photo on the field.

"Immediately upon receiving notice from the laboratory of a positive test, protocols were triggered, leading to the removal of Justin Turner from last night's game," MLB said in a statement Wednesday. "Turner was placed into isolation for the safety of those around him. However, following the Dodgers' victory, it is clear that Turner chose to disregard the agreed-upon joint protocols and the instructions he was given regarding the safety and protection of others."

"While a desire to celebrate is understandable, Turner's decision to leave isolation and enter the field was wrong and put everyone he came in contact with at risk. When MLB

Security raised the matter of being on the field with Turner, he emphatically refused to comply."

Turner became a free agent when his \$64 million, four-year contract expired following the victory.

Turner's agent, Greg Genske, did not immediately respond to a text from The Associated Press seeking comment.

"Last night, nasal swabs were conducted on the Dodgers' traveling party," MLB said. "Both the Rays and Dodgers were tested again today and their travel back to their home cities will be determined after being approved by the appropriate authorities."

Both teams traveled home from the Dallas area on Wednesday in coordination with their local health authorities, a person familiar with the arrangements said, speaking on condition of anonymity be-

cause no announcement was made.

No additional players received positive results from rapid PCR tests early Wednesday, the person said, but the wife of one Rays player tested positive, the person said. The wife and the player did not travel with the team and were to travel on their own, the person said.

A private plane was being arranged for Turner's travel, the person said.

One of the Rays' two charter planes had a lengthy mechanical delay in Dallas that caused one of the aircraft to be switched, and the team said shortly after midnight that both planes had arrived back home.

The commissioner's office said it will consult with the players' association as part of its investigation. The union was in the process of gathering facts on the events.

## Lots of new quarterbacks scattered throughout Pac-12

Associated Press

The so-called Conference of Quarterbacks has had some considerable turnover at the position heading into the season.

Gone are some of the Pac-12's big names: Oregon's Justin Herbert, Washington State's Anthony Gordon, Arizona's Khalil Tate and Utah's Tyler Huntley. Just five quarterbacks who started regularly for conference teams last season are back.

Arguably the top returnee is USC's Kedon Slovis, who took over last season when starter JT Daniels was injured in the opener. Slovis threw for 3,502 yards with 30 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He was named Pac-12 Freshman of the Year.

"I felt as Kedon progressed through that second half of the season and we progressed as a team, we started playing our best ball towards the end of the season last year," Trojans coach Clay Helton said. "Now,

to be able to watch Kedon work with those skill players and see the timing the ball is coming out (with), the accuracy the ball is coming out with, the chemistry of those skill players with him, it's evident that being in the second year of the system and his comfort level with the kids he's been working with is clear on the field. It makes you excited as a coach."

Slovis is considered one of the top QBs in the conference, if not the nation, heading into the pandemic-abbreviated season. The Trojans, who finished 8-5 overall and 7-2 in the Pac-12 last year, are ranked No. 21 in the AP Top 25 despite the fact they haven't played yet.

"From my perspective, or from the offense's, we're just really throwing in a lot of stuff, more nuances from what we did last year and more variations from what we did last year. We can run so many different things from so many different looks," Slovis said about

USC's progression heading into his second season.

Other returning starters at QB include Arizona State's Jayden Daniels, who threw for 2,943 yards with 17 touchdowns and two interceptions as a freshman. He had five 300-yard games. Cal's Chase Garbers threw for 1,772 yards and 14 touchdowns with three interceptions in nine games last year. And UCLA junior Dorian Thompson-Robinson threw for 2,701 yards and 21 TDs with 12 interceptions.

At Stanford, quarterback K.J. Costello went to Mississippi State under Mike Leach, who left Washington State in the off-season. But the Cardinal still have junior Davis Mills, who started six games last season when Costello was injured.

At Arizona, Grant Gunnell will take the reins at QB after starting in three games last season when Tate struggled with injury.

Oregon's backup last season,

Tyler Shough, is the presumed starter for the Ducks, while Tristan Gebbia is expected to top the depth chart at Oregon State. To the north in Washington, Jacob Sirmon appeared to be the front-runner to replace Jacob Eason, and Washington State had a three-way competition in camp between Jayden de Laura, Gunner Cruz and Cammon Cooper.

Utah also had three players vying for the starting nod, Jake Bentley, Drew Lisk and Cameron Rising, while Colorado's battle was primarily between Tyler Lytle and Sam Noyer.

### Projected finish

Media members who cover the Pac-12 selected Oregon to finish atop the North Division and USC to top the South, and the Ducks to win the league title for the second straight year. Last year the Ducks won their division, the championship and the Rose Bowl to finish 12-2 overall and ranked No. 5.

## NBA briefs

## Sources: Rockets will hire Silas as coach

Associated Press

The Houston Rockets and Stephen Silas have an agreement for the Dallas assistant to replace Mike D'Antoni as coach, multiple people with knowledge of the deal said Wednesday.

The hiring of the son of former NBA player and coach Paul Silas completes a significant change in the leadership of the team with the league's longest active playoff streak after Daryl Morey decided not to return as general manager following D'Antoni's departure.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no announcement has been made.

The new combination of coach and general manager comes after eight straight trips to the playoffs for the Rock-

ets, all since acquiring James Harden in an offseason trade with Oklahoma City in 2012.

Morey was the architect of those rosters, and D'Antoni led the Rockets to a franchise-record 65 wins in 2017-18 before a Game 7 loss to Golden State in the Western Conference finals. The Warriors swept Cleveland to win the title.

Houston recorded 50-win seasons in each of D'Antoni's first three years and had a shot at another when the pandemic shut down the regular season last March.

The Rockets beat Oklahoma City in the first round of the playoff bubble in Florida this year before losing to the champion Los Angeles Lakers in five games, the third second-round exit in D'Antoni's four seasons. The former Phoenix coach decided not to return when his

contract expired.

The 46-year-old Silas is the first significant hire for Rafael Stone, who was promoted to GM from vice president of basketball operations when Morey stepped down.

## Raptors' Davis charged with assault

NEW YORK — Toronto Raptors rookie Terence Davis was arrested in New York on charges including assault after police say he hit his girlfriend in the face.

The incident occurred Tuesday night at a luxury high-rise in midtown Manhattan, where a 20-year-old woman told police she went to visit her boyfriend and the two got into a verbal dispute, a police spokeswoman said.

Davis then hit the woman in the face, hurting her eye, and grabbed her phone and broke its screen, Detective Sophia Mason said in a statement.

Davis was arraigned Wednesday on misdemeanor charges of assault, attempted assault, endangering the welfare of a child, criminal mischief, aggravated harassment and harassment.

In other NBA news:

■ The majority interest of the Utah Jazz is being sold to technology entrepreneur Ryan Smith, a move that when formally approved by the NBA, will end the Miller family's 35-year run as owners.

Smith is a co-founder of the Utah-based firm Qualtrics, which was sold to SAP for \$8 billion in an all-cash deal finalized last year.

## Several days late, Kyle Busch gets his first win of year

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Out of contention to defend his NASCAR Cup title, Kyle Busch at least extended his season winning streak to 16 with his first victory of 2020.

He also denied a needed victory for Martin Truex Jr., his penalized Joe Gibbs Racing teammate who still has a chance to be one of the four drivers to be the new champion.

"I feel like crap," Busch said. "But I got a win."

Busch won the NASCAR playoff race at Texas that finished Wednesday, three days after it started. He was 0.468 seconds ahead of Truex, and had just enough fuel left to do a celebratory burnout on the frontstretch before needing a push from a tow truck to get the No. 18 Toyota to Victory Lane.

"If it was one more lap, the 18 was probably going to run out of gas," said Truex, who led 53 laps. "So, I mean, it just was one of those things ... how close can you get without winning?"

It was the 12th top-three finish this season for Truex, whose only win came at Martinsville — NASCAR's oldest and shortest track where the next race is Sunday. He also won there last fall.

Truex had to go to the back of the field

when the Texas race started Sunday because of an illegal spoiler and lost crew chief James Small for the extended time in Texas. The 2017 champion and runner-up the last two seasons was also docked 20 points, a crucial penalty since he was already below the cutoff line for the top four before that.

A win would have taken care of that.

"Coming here we had a lot of confidence and we had a strong run," Truex said. "This time of year, second is great, it's just not good enough."

There are spots for three other drivers to join Joey Logano for a run at the championship in the season finale Nov. 8 at Phoenix.

Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin and Brad Keselowski are above the cutline going to Martinsville. Alex Bowman and Chase Elliott are both 42 points behind the cutoff, while Truex is 53 back and Kurt Busch 98.

The 57th career victory for Kyle Busch gives him at least one win in every year since 2005. The two-time Cup champion got his fourth Cup win at Texas, and his first Cup win since his championship-crowning win at Homestead last November.

"We got it and I was so nervous," Busch said. "The last three laps, that's like winning a championship, that's how nervous I was."

Busch led five times and was in front for 90 of the 334 laps at the 1½-mile Texas track that was finally dried out after more than three days of misty conditions and drizzle combined with cool temperatures.

Temperatures were in the mid-40s when the race finally resumed Wednesday after being on hold for 72 hours, 28 minutes, 34 seconds.

The race was red-flagged Sunday after 52 laps because of the precipitation that lingered until Wednesday morning.

Bowman finished fifth at Texas, just ahead of Keselowski and Kurt Busch. Hamlin was ninth, Logano 10th and Harvick, who had won the previous three fall races in Texas, was 16th after resuming Wednesday a lap back because of damage to his right side when he brushed the wall while leading on Sunday. Elliott finished 20th.

"I don't know about the craziest (race), but certainly the longest. I'm glad it's over, and I'm glad we had a great run," Keselowski said. "I'm very much looking forward to Martinsville."

Logano secured his spot in the final four with his win 10 days earlier at Kansas to open the three-race round of eight.