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# Two-week freeze worries Oregon businesses

SALEM (AP) — In March life in Oregon, and across the country, came to a screeching halt.

Restaurants only served meals in to-go bags. Long-term care facilities locked their doors in an effort to save their tenants. Playgrounds were childless and classrooms were operated through computer screens. Businesses hastily expanded their on-line stores and employees were sent home. The only crowds that could be seen were gathered outside grocery stores in lines stretching around the building.

During the summer and fall “Closed” signs began to be flipped back over to “Open.”

As COVID-19 cases surge across Oregon a slew of new restrictions are being implemented in the state, as part of a two-week freeze that begins Wednesday in an effort to halt social activities and slow the spread in transmis-

sion. Restaurants are once again being limited to take-out only and some businesses must lock their doors. This time, the lack of a federal economic backstop is leaving owners and employees apprehensive about their ability to survive the financial impact.

“We were already hearing from members they were concerned about what another shutdown would do to their chances of staying open,” said Jason Brandt, the president & CEO for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. “This latest round of regulations focused on restaurants will trigger an unknown amount of permanent closures impacting the livelihoods of thousands of Oregon families.”

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic around 200 restaurants, or 2 percent, have permanently closed. Brandt said

that number is likely significantly higher.

A month into Oregon’s March shutdown, an estimated 81% of Oregon restaurant workers had been laid off or furloughed — impacting 127,000 employees, according to a national survey conducted by the National Restaurant Association.

But this time around federal funds have dwindled and the pool of significant financial resources are arid.

“This is incredibly different than the last go around because we had the federal government to pass relief packages to prop up businesses,” Brandt said.

The Paycheck Protection Program, a key piece of the coronavirus relief legislation Congress approved in March, handed out more than \$650 billion in loans and increased the survivability of businesses.

The program stopped taking applications in August.

A separate federal relief program that paid unemployed Americans an extra \$600 per week has lapsed as well.

“Congress needs to act to help us,” Gov. Kate Brown said.

For weeks Brown has called on Congress to pass another COVID-19 relief package, which she said should immediately reinstitute the \$600 supplemental benefit for unemployment and enhance federal employment compensation.

“We know very, very, clearly that the band-aid has been ripped off and that our historically underserved communities — our communities of color, our low income communities, our rural communities — have been disproportionately impacted,” Brown said.

Last week the Oregon Restau-

rant & Lodging Association sent a letter to the governor and lawmakers asking that \$75 million of Oregon’s remaining CARES funds be used to create a Hospitality Relief Fund to help restaurants, bars, breweries, cideries, lodging properties and other hospitality related businesses.

In addition, following the announcement of new restrictions, officials from the Oregon Employment Department said they are preparing to increase its claims processing capacity with support from the National Guard. The department is also developing an option for impacted employers to submit employee information in bulk to minimize the need for employees to locate key information that may not be easily accessible.

Please see **Businesses**, Page 2

## Foggy soccer



John Gunther, The World

Fog settles above the pitch during Marshfield’s match against visiting North Bend on Tuesday night. The match was played in pleasant temperatures before heavy rain arrived during the night. Rain and win are expected on the South Coast on Tuesday, with the rainy weather continuing through Thursday.

## The World offices to close for two weeks

THE WORLD

In line with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s two-week freeze on social gatherings statewide, The World will close its office to the public starting Wednesday.

“To ensure the safety of our employees and customers, our offices will be closed from Wednesday, Nov. 18, through Dec. 1,” Publisher Ben Kenfield said.

For assistance over the phone, customers can call 541-266-6047.

People who need to drop off items can use a drop box located next to the front door.

## Trump’s Pennsylvania lawsuit heads to court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hearing on the Trump campaign’s federal lawsuit seeking to prevent Pennsylvania officials from certifying the vote results remains on track for Tuesday after a judge quickly denied the campaign’s new lawyer’s request for a delay.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Brann told lawyers for Donald J. Trump for President Inc. and the counties and state election official it has sued that they must show up and “be prepared for argument and questioning” at the federal courthouse in Williamsport.

The Trump campaign wants to prevent certification of results that give President-elect Joe Biden the state’s 20 electoral votes, suing over election procedures that were not uniform across the state.

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, has asked to have the lawsuit thrown out, calling its allegations in court filings “at best, garden-variety irregularities.”

Brann scheduled the hearing to discuss the campaign’s request for a temporary restraining order as well as the defendants’ request to have the case dismissed.

After Pittsburgh lawyers dropped out of representing Trump’s campaign on Friday, Philadelphia election lawyer Linda Kerns and two Texas lawyers also withdrew Monday.

Please see **Lawsuit**, Page 3

## Nearly 90,000 file claims in Boys Scouts bankruptcy

### Deadline for victims in sex abuse scandal to submit claims was Monday

NEW YORK (AP) — Close to 90,000 sexual abuse claims have been filed against the Boy Scouts of America as the Monday deadline arrived for submitting claims in the organization’s bankruptcy case.

The number far exceeds the initial projections of lawyers across the United States who have been signing up clients since the Boy Scouts filed for bankruptcy protection in February in the face of hundreds of lawsuits alleging decades-old sex abuse by Scout leaders.

“We are devastated by the number of lives impacted by past abuse in Scouting and moved by the bravery of those who have come forward,” the Boy Scouts said in a statement. “We are heartbroken that we cannot undo their pain.”

A few hours before the 5 p.m. EST deadline, the number of claims totaled 88,500, lawyers said.

Eventually, the proceedings in federal bankruptcy court will lead to the creation of a compensation fund to pay out settlements to abuse survivors whose claims are upheld.

The potential size of the fund is not yet known and will be the

subject of complex negotiations. The national organization is expected to contribute a substantial portion of its assets, which include financial investments and real estate. The Boy Scouts’ insurers also will be contributing, as will the Boy Scouts’ roughly 260 local councils and companies that insured them in the past.

Andrew Van Arsdale, a lawyer with a network called Abused in Scouting, said it has signed up about 16,000 claimants. He said that number doubled after the Boy Scouts, under the supervision of a bankruptcy judge, launched a nationwide advertising campaign on Aug. 31 to notify victims that they had until Nov. 16 to seek compensation.

“They spent millions trying to encourage people to come forward,” Van Arsdale said. “Now, the question is whether they can make good on their commitment.”

The Boy Scouts said it “intentionally developed an open, accessible process to reach survivors and help them take an essential step toward receiving compensation.”

“The response we have seen from survivors has been gut-wrenching,” the organization added. “We are deeply sorry.”

The bankruptcy has been painful for the 110-year-old Boy Scouts, which has been a pillar of American civic life for generations. Its finances were already

strained by sex abuse settlements and declining membership — now below 2 million from a peak of over 4 million in the 1970s.

Most of the pending sex abuse claims date to the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s, before the Boy Scouts adopted criminal background checks, abuse prevention training for all staff and volunteers, and a rule that two or more adult leaders must be present during activities.

Among the contentious issues still to be addressed in the bankruptcy case is the extent to which the Boy Scouts’ local councils contribute to the compensation fund.

In its bankruptcy filing, the national organization said the councils, which have extensive property holdings and other assets, are separate legal entities and should not be included as debtors in the case. An ad hoc committee representing the councils has been negotiating what they will pay in.

Under the terms of the case, no additional sex abuse claims can be filed against the Boy Scouts after Monday. However, attorney Jason Amala, part of a legal team representing more than 1,000 claimants, said new claims still could be filed against local councils in some states that have victim-friendly statute-of-limitations laws, such as New York, New Jersey and California.

Lawyer Paul Mones, who won a \$19.9 million sex abuse verdict

against the Boy Scouts in Oregon in 2010, said painstaking work lies ahead to determine which insurers were responsible for coverage of the national organization and the local councils over the decades in which abuse occurred.

He said the eventual payments are likely to vary, depending on the severity and duration of the abuse.

“The number of claims is mind-boggling,” Mones said, noting that many abuse victims likely have not come forward. “It’s chilling in terms of the amount of horror that was experienced.”

Some of the claims may be hard to verify, if they involve abuse allegations against volunteer Scout leaders whose names don’t appear in official rosters from long ago, Mones said.

One of the official parties in the case, a group of nine sex abuse survivors representing all the victims, called the case “the largest and most tragic bankruptcy ever resulting from sexual abuse liability.”

“More sexual abuse claims will be filed in the Boy Scouts bankruptcy than all claims filed against the Catholic Church throughout the nation,” the Torts Claimants Committee said.

“Sexual abuse in scouting is unprecedented and the remedies for victims must, likewise, be unprecedented,” said the committee’s chairman, John Humphrey.



# Oregon reports another 781 COVID-19 cases

THE WORLD

PORTLAND — The Oregon Health Authority reported four new deaths and 781 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 as of 12:01 a.m. Monday.

Oregon’s count since the pandemic started stands at 765 deaths and 57,646 total cases.

New cases reported Monday were in the following counties: Baker (8), Benton (6), Clackamas (71), Columbia (5), Coos (4), Crook (1), Deschutes (35), Douglas (9), Hood River (3), Jackson (59), Jefferson (1), Josephine

(2), Klamath (3), Lake (2), Lane (41), Linn (11), Malheur (5), Marion (103), Multnomah (231), Polk (16), Tillamook (2), Umatilla (10), Union (23), Wasco (1), Washington (118), and Yamhill (11).

Oregon’s 762nd COVID-19 death is a 41-year-old man in Washington County, who became symptomatic on Nov. 8 after contact with a confirmed case, and died on Nov. 15 in his residence. He did not have underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 763rd COVID-19 death is a 78-year-old man in Washington County who tested

positive on Nov. 8 and died on Nov. 14. Place of death is being confirmed. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 764th COVID-19 death is a 60-year-old man in Clackamas County who tested positive on Nov. 2 and died on Nov. 15 at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 765th COVID-19 death is a 74-year-old woman in Multnomah County who tested positive on Nov. 5 and died on Nov. 8 at Adventist Medical Center. She had underlying conditions.

## Employment Department preps for more unemployment claims

Department plans to increase its capacity for processing new claims

The Oregon Employment Department announced Friday, Nov. 13, that it is preparing for an increase in unemployment claims following Gov. Kate Brown’s statewide Two-Week Freeze. Oregonians whose employment is impacted by this effort to curb the exponential spread of COVID-19 will need to either file an initial claim or restart a stopped claim.

“While the Two-Week Freeze may not directly affect all businesses, we

want Oregonians to know that we are in a much better place than we were at the start of the pandemic to respond to an uptick in unemployment claims. We are ready to take your claims and ensure you get your benefits as quickly as possible, whether through an existing benefit program or any new federal program that may get passed,” said Acting Director David Gerstenfeld.

The Employment Department is preparing to increase its claims processing capacity with support from the National Guard. The department is also developing an option for impacted employers to submit employee information in bulk to minimize the need for employees to

locate key information that may not be easily accessible.

Oregonians whose employment is impacted by the Two-Week Freeze should take the Employment Department’s Eligibility Quiz to determine which benefit program they are eligible for.

If a claimant has returned to work and the Two-Week Freeze impacts their employment, they will need to restart their claim. Claims can be restarted by going to the Online Claim System and selecting Restart Your Claim (the eighth button down). Those unable to restart their claim this way should contact the Employment Department via the Contact Us form and select the Restarting my claim option.

## Businesses

From Page 1

Between the start of the pandemic and July more than 500,000 Oregonians had filed unemployment claims, causing major delays in people receiving funds — thousands of people waiting months for unemployment.

In July Oregon’s Legislature passed a \$35 million relief check program that could pay 70,000 Oregonians, still waiting for unemployment benefits, a one-time payment of \$500.

In less than three days all the funds had been used.

Brandt said the upcoming freeze is likely “going to be the fight for small businesses’ lives.”

For months many Oregon restaurants have been operating at a limited capacity, 100 people, and had a curfew of 10 p.m.

Brandt said that since reopening, many restaurant owners have invested their money into creating outdoor dining structures and heating so they can operate in the winter.

Ezra Caraeff, who owns three bar-restaurants and one bar in Portland, said he has spent weeks retrofitting his establishment for outdoor dining in Oregon’s wet winter weather. During March, Ezra said he had to lay off 50 people. Since then he has rehired most of them.

“The hardest part last time was not closing down or washing my hands more, the hardest part was laying off 50 people,” he said. “So to have to do this again is hard to even think about.”

Caraeff said the latest closure order will be devastating for him and his employees.

“It’s difficult to comprehend it. It’s gonna be a

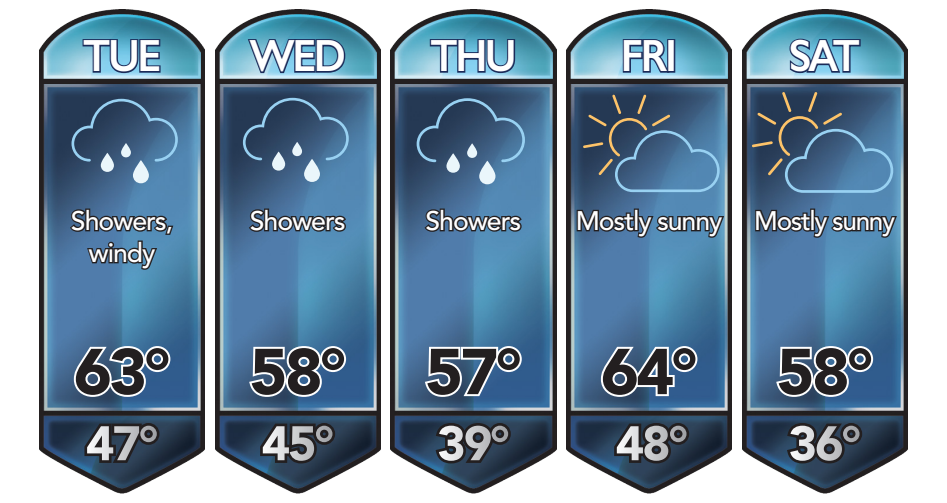
blood bath. ... We should shut down, I agree with shutting down, but is there rent relief? There’s not,” he said.

On Monday Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler urged Oregonians to buy local and support businesses.

“My ask of the public is, let’s support some of these restaurants,” he said. “Let’s show these restaurants some love because if we want them to be there on the other side of the COVID crisis, we’ve got to support them now.”

Oregon’s statewide two-week freeze begins Nov. 18 but for some counties, including Multnomah — Oregon’s most populous county and home to Portland — the freeze is expected to last longer.

On top of take-out only, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores are limited to a maximum capacity of 75%. Faith based organizations will also have



## Americans across party lines, regions embrace marijuana

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Bill Stocker could be considered the archetype of a conservative voter: He’s a retired Marine and former police officer who voted for President Donald Trump. But he’s also among the majority of South Dakota voters who broadly legalized marijuana this month.

Stocker, 61, said enforcing marijuana laws gets in the way of pursuing other drug crimes and called warnings about the ills of marijuana “a bunch of baloney” that even people in a Republican stronghold like South Dakota no longer believe.

South Dakota’s values of “personal responsibility and freedom” won out, said Stocker, who lives in Sioux Falls.

The 2020 election helped prove how broadly accepted marijuana has become throughout the United States, with measures to legalize recreational pot also breezing to victory in progressive New Jersey, moderate Arizona and conservative Montana. Fifteen states have now broadly legalized it, while 36 states allow medical marijuana.

Voters in Mississippi overwhelmingly approved

medical marijuana this month, giving the drug another foothold in the South.

A Gallup Poll released Nov. 9 indicated that 68% of Americans favor legalizing marijuana — double the approval rate in 2003. That wide margin was evident in the election, with marijuana measures passing with strong bipartisan support.

In South Dakota and Montana — where Republicans swept to victory in the key races — recreational marijuana passed with at least 16 percentage points more support than Democratic President-elect Joe Biden received. South Dakota also approved medical pot, which outpolled Biden by 34 percentage points.

“We’ve waged a war against this plant for a century and by any reasonable metric, that war has been an abject failure,” said Matthew Schweich, deputy director of the Marijuana Policy Project, which favors legalization. “All it’s done is incarcerate millions of Americans, it has perpetuated racism in this country, and perhaps the worst injustice of all is that it’s deprived us of medical marijuana research.”

mer U.S. attorney in South Dakota who supported the state’s marijuana initiatives, said the campaign focused on the fact that in recent years 10% of arrests in the state were for marijuana, and most were small amounts.

“We have a real problem here where we have criminalized an entire generation of South Dakotans, and we’re paying a price,” Johnson said.

The owner of a chain of medical marijuana dispensaries in Billings, Montana, credited passage of the recreational marijuana initiative to a yearslong campaign by medical marijuana supporters to educate the public about the benefits of cannabis.

“There has been a considerable change in the political demographic because people are educated, because they know Aunt Margaret tried it for her cancer and she can eat,” said Richard Abromeit, owner of Montana Advanced Caregivers.

Advocates’ next goal is to get marijuana removed from a federal list of illegal drugs with no accepted medical use and high potential for abuse. The listing prevents labs from researching potential medical remedies using marijuana.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told lawmakers last week that he would hold a vote in December on a bill that would decriminalize cannabis, create a process to expunge nonviolent pot convictions and remove the drug from the Controlled Substances Act. It’s not clear if the bill could pass both chambers.

The outcome of two runoff elections in Georgia could determine how the issue might fare in the Senate, where Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has impeded its progress.

Other states are expected to consider marijuana legislation next year, which could put more pressure on Congress to act.

Supporters argue that the industry creates jobs and raises tax money to help prop up governments that are hurting because of business closures tied to the COVID-19 pandemic.

their capacity reduced to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.

Gyms and fitness centers, museums, pools, sports courts, movie theaters, zoos, gardens, aquariums and venues will have to close their doors completely. All businesses will be required to close their offices to the public and mandate work-from-home “to the greatest extent possible.”

Lastly, both indoor and outdoor social get-togethers are limited to six people, total, from no more than two households.

For the past few weeks, Oregon has seen daily case counts surging at an “alarming” rate, threatening hospital capacity.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 781 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Monday, raising the state’s total to 57,646. The death toll is 765.

## NORTHWEST STOCKS

Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes			NW Natural	49.68	49.05	Levi Strauss	17.70	18.05
Stock	Close	8:30	Skywest	36.93	37.40	Dow Jones closed at 29,963.34		
Intel	46.17	45.94	Starbucks	97.78	97.90	NASDAQ closed at 11,930.57		
Kroger	32.30	32.12	Umpqua Hldgs	14.55	14.42	S&P 500 closed at 3,627.15		
Microsoft	217.36	215.50	Weyerhaeuser	29.37	29.10	Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones		
Nike	130.11	130.96	Xerox	22.70	22.39			

## LOTTERY

<b>MegaMillions</b> Nov. 13 6-7-14-28-59 MegaBall: 7 Multiplier: x2 Jackpot: \$176 million	<b>Powerball</b> Nov. 14 7-15-18-32-45 Powerball: 20 Multiplier: x2 Jackpot: \$179 million	<b>Megabucks</b> Nov. 16 2-4-10-35-39-48 Jackpot: \$4.6 Million	<b>Win For Life</b> Nov. 16 17-45-51-68
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# Georgia elections chief battles fellow Republicans, Trump

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia’s secretary of state is a man on an island, and the political flood is rising fast, as President Donald Trump and his allies vent their outrage at the fellow Republican and make unsupported claims that mismanagement and fraud tainted the state’s presidential election.

Trump spent the week-end attacking Brad Raffensperger on social media, at one point calling him “a so-called Republican (RINO),” an acronym for “Republican in name only.” Raffensperger punched back, disputing Trump’s claims that he made it easier for Democrats to cheat using mail-in ballots.

The secretary also called U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, who is running Trump’s Georgia recount effort, a “liar,” and says South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham called him in an apparent effort to pressure him to improperly discard ballots. Graham dismissed the allegation as “ridiculous.”

The current battle is a switch for Raffensperger. The 65-year-old, bespectacled engineer spent most of his first two years in office taking abuse from Democrats, who filed lawsuits alleging that Georgia, under then-Secretary of State Brian Kemp, engaged in illegal voter suppression in 2018. Kemp, the Republican candidate who narrowly won the governorship over Democrat Stacey Abrams that year, denies the claims.

Also left in Raffensperger’s lap was a breakneck race to replace Georgia’s outdated voting machines in time for 2020 — an undertaking complicated in its closing stretch by the coronavirus pandemic.

Through it all, Raffensperger — currently in

quarantine after his wife tested positive for coronavirus — has insisted he’s an impartial administrator of Georgia elections with no desire or agenda to sway the outcome.

Trump and his allies claimed Raffensperger didn’t do enough to root out “illegal” votes.

“The secretary of state has failed to deliver honest and transparent elections,” GOP Sens. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler — both of whom failed to win enough votes to avoid January runoffs with their Democratic opponents — said last week in a statement, without offering any evidence to back up their assertion. “He has failed the people of Georgia, and he should step down immediately.”

Collins, responding to Raffensperger’s “liar” label, fired back Monday on Twitter: “In a year of political division in Georgia, few things have unified Republicans and Democrats — one of them is Brad Raffensperger’s incompetence as Secretary of State.”

Raffensperger has sought to weather the beating by appeasing Trump supporters. After the Trump campaign asked for a hand recount of all 5 million votes cast in Georgia, Raffensperger chose the presidential election for an audit, which Georgia law now requires for one statewide race each election cycle. The law envisioned just a sample of these votes to be checked in a hand count. But because the margin in the presidential race is so narrow, Raffensperger said hand-counting all the ballots that were legally cast is the only way to provide confidence in the result.

Not shying away from the fact that he’s a Republi-

can, Raffensperger has said publicly that he wished Trump had won. But he’s also held firm in saying that he has seen no evidence of widespread fraud or voting irregularities — and that he expects Biden’s 14,000-vote lead to hold up once the audit is complete.

“We knew that it was a silly argument,” Raffensperger said of the fraud allegations, in an interview Monday with WDUN-AM radio. “But the hand recount puts that to bed.”

The elections chief has largely been left to fight on his own.

The state’s eight GOP U.S. House members have demanded — again without citing any evidence — that the secretary of state investigate Trump’s claims. Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan and state House Speaker David Ralston are exceptions: They’ve joined Kemp in pushing investigations, but have stopped short of attacking Raffensperger.

A few Republicans have even publicly supported him.

“From the standpoint of what I’ve seen, there just is no widespread fraud in the election process leading up to the general election,” said Saxby Chambliss, a Georgia Republican who served two terms in the U.S. Senate.

Georgia has seen years of contention over voting that predate Abrams’ loss. While Republicans have newly labeled Raffensperger as an enemy, some Democrats find themselves partially mollified.

“I think on the whole he responded very well to changing the operations of the election to accommodate the pandemic,” said David Worley, a former Georgia Democratic Party chairman who now serves on the state elections board. Worley said Raffens-

perger has been a better manager and less partisan than Kemp was as secretary of state.

Before winning statewide office, Raffensperger made a fortune in engineering and won election in 2011 to the city council in the affluent Atlanta suburb of Johns Creek.

“There’s no hidden agenda,” said Ivan Figueroa, who served on the council with Raffensperger. “He speaks his mind straight. You can trust what he says.”

In 2014, Raffensperger won election to the state legislature. In 2018, when Kemp opted to run for governor, Raffensperger successfully ran to replace him, defeating Democratic U.S. Rep. John Barrow.

Last December, Raffensperger angered Democrats still smarting over Abrams’ loss by purging more than 300,000 voters under a Georgia law that removes residents from the rolls if they don’t vote in a seven-year period or respond to contacts. A new law will extend the deadline to nine years.

Raffensperger’s biggest task has been to roll out a new voting system purchased from Dominion Voting Systems that cost more than \$100 million. Dominion has been the target of unsupported conspiracy claims spread by Trump and his supporters in recent days.

The new equipment got a rocky rollout during a June primary that was blemished by hourslong waits, in part because the COVID-19 pandemic shrunk the number of polling places and workers.

November’s vote was smoother, with most people voting before Election Day after Raffensperger set up an online system for requesting mail-in ballots.

## SpaceX capsule reaches the space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX’s newly launched capsule with four astronauts arrived Monday at the International Space Station, their new home until spring.

The Dragon capsule pulled up and docked late Monday night, following a 27-hour, completely automated flight from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. The linkup occurred 262 miles (422 kilometers) above Idaho.

“Oh, what a good voice to hear,” space station astronaut Kate Rubins called out when the Dragon’s commander, Mike Hopkins, first made radio contact.

“We can’t wait to have you on board,” she added after the two spacecraft were latched together.

This is the second astronaut mission for SpaceX. But it’s the first time Elon Musk’s company delivered a crew for a full half-year station stay. The two-pilot test flight earlier this year lasted two months.

The three Americans and one Japanese astronaut will remain at the orbiting lab until their replacements arrive on another Dragon in April. And so it will go, with SpaceX — and eventually Boeing — transporting astronauts to and from the station for NASA.

This regular taxi ser-

vice got underway with Sunday night’s launch.

Hopkins and his crew — Victor Glover, Shannon Walker and Japan’s Soichi Noguchi — join two Russians and one American who flew to the space station last month from Kazakhstan. Glover is the first African-American to move in for a long haul. A space newcomer, Glover was presented his gold astronaut pin Monday.

The four named their capsule Resilience to provide hope and inspiration during an especially difficult year for the whole world. They broadcast a tour of their capsule Monday, showing off the touchscreen controls, storage areas and their zero gravity indicator: a small plush Baby Yoda.

Walker said it was a little tighter for them than for the two astronauts on the test flight.

“We sort of dance around each other to stay out of each other’s way,” she said.

As they prepared for the space station linkup, the Dragon crew beamed down live window views of New Zealand and a brilliant blue, cloud-streaked Pacific 250 miles below. “Looks amazing,” Mission Control radioed from SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.

“It looks amazing from up here, too,” Hopkins replied.

# Source: Trump to order troop cuts in Afghanistan and Iraq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump is expected to cut a significant number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and a smaller number in Iraq by the final days of his presidency, U.S. officials said Monday. The plan would run counter to military commanders’ advice over the past year, while still falling short of Trump’s much-touted goal to end America’s long wars.

The decision comes just days after Trump installed a new slate of loyalists in top Pentagon positions who share his frustration with the continued troop presence in the war zones. But the expected plans would leave 2,500 troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan, meaning that President-elect Joe Biden would be the fourth president to grapple with the still-smoldering conflicts launched in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

U.S. officials said military leaders were told over the weekend about the planned withdrawals and that an executive order is in the works but has not yet been delivered to commanders. Officials cautioned that there could always be changes, and Trump is known to make snap decisions based on media reports and online chatter. Officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

There are 4,500 to 5,000 troops in Afghanistan and more than 3,000 in Iraq.

As news broke about the plan, Republican leaders on Capitol Hill

issued stark warnings about making any hasty exit from Afghanistan that could jeopardize the peace process and undermine counterterrorism efforts.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Trump administration has made tremendous headway against terrorist threats, but warned against a potentially “humiliating” pullout from Afghanistan that he said would be worse than President Barack Obama’s 2011 withdrawal from Iraq and reminiscent of the U.S. departure from Saigon in 1975.

Rep. Michael McCaul, Republican leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said of the plans for Afghanistan, “We need to ensure a residual force is maintained for the foreseeable future to protect U.S. national and homeland security interests and to help secure peace for Afghanistan.”

Under the planned order, the troop cuts would be completed just five days before Biden takes office on Jan. 20. Military commanders have expressed less concern about the reduction in Iraq, where the Iraqi forces are better able to maintain their nation’s security.

Trump’s new Pentagon chief, Christopher Miller, hinted at the troop withdrawals over the weekend in a carefully worded message to the force.

“We remain committed to finishing the war that al-Qaida brought to our shores in 2001,” he said, and warned that “we must avoid our past strategic error of failing to see the fight through to the finish.”

But Miller also made it clear that “all wars must end.”

“This fight has been long, our sacrifices have been enormous, and many are weary of war — I’m one of them,” he said. “Ending wars requires compromise and partnership. We met the challenge; we gave it our all. Now, it’s time to come home.”

The accelerated withdrawal, however, goes against the longstanding advice of Trump’s military leadership, including Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, top U.S. commander for the Middle East. But officials suggested that commanders will be able to live with the partial pullout, which allows them to keep counterterrorism troops in Afghanistan and gives them time to remove critical equipment from the country.

McKenzie and others have repeatedly argued that a hasty withdrawal could undercut negotiations to finalize ongoing peace negotiations between the Taliban and representatives of Afghan society, including the Afghan government. And they also warn that U.S. forces should remain in the country to keep Islamic State militants in check.

Biden has sounded less absolute about troop withdrawal. He has said some troops could stay in Afghanistan to focus on the counterterrorism mission. In response to a questionnaire before the election, he said: “Americans are rightly weary of our longest war; I am, too. But we must end the war responsibly, in a manner

that ensures we both guard against threats to our homeland and never have to go back.”

The expected order, first reported by CNN, adds to what has been a litany of muddled White House and Pentagon messages on troops withdrawals from both Afghanistan and Iraq, only exacerbating what has been an emotional roller coaster for the troops and their families. Adding to the confusion: The Pentagon has historically failed to count up to hundreds of troops actually on the ground, including some special operations forces and personnel on temporary duty for only a few months. Often that is due to political sensitivities in those countries and in the U.S.

The Pentagon was already on track to cut troops levels in Afghanistan to about 4,500 by mid-November. U.S. military leaders have consistently said that going below that number must be based on conditions on the ground, including a measurable reduction in attacks by the Taliban on Afghan troops. And they insist they have not seen that yet.

America’s exit from Afghanistan after 19 years was laid out in a February agreement Washington reached with the Taliban. That agreement said U.S. troops would be out of Afghanistan in 18 months, provided the Taliban honored a commitment to fight terrorist groups, with most attention seemingly focused on the Islamic State group’s affiliate in the country.

## Lawsuit

From Page 1

Camp Hill lawyer Mark Scaringi, a losing candidate in the 2012 Republican U.S. Senate primary, notified the judge he was stepping in but did not get the delay he sought.

The Associated Press has declared Biden the winner of the presidential contest, but Trump has refused to concede and is blocking Biden’s efforts toward a smoother transition of power. With Georgia the only uncalled state, Biden has collected at least 290 electoral votes — just enough that overturning Pennsylvania’s result would not open an avenue to a second term for Trump.

Biden’s margin in Pennsylvania is now nearly 70,000 votes.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election, and experts say Trump’s various lawsuits have no chance of reversing the outcome in a single state, let alone the election. In fact, election officials from both political parties have stated publicly that the election went well, and international observers confirmed there were no serious irregularities.

The issues Trump’s campaign and its allies have pointed to are typical in every election: problems with signatures, secrecy envelopes and postal marks on mail-in ballots, as well as the potential for a small number of ballots miscast or lost.

Trump’s campaign has also launched legal challenges complaining that its poll watchers were unable to scrutinize the voting process. Many of those challenges were tossed out by judges, some within hours.

Trump’s legal team has so far scored just two small victories. In one case, a court allowed their observers to stand a little closer to election workers processing mail-in ballots in Philadelphia. In another, Pennsylvania counties were ordered

not to count mail-in or absentee ballots for which the voter didn’t submit valid identification within six days after the election, but that ruling is expected to affect no more than a few thousand ballots.

A slew of other legal challenges brought by Republicans have quickly been swatted down or withdrawn.

On Monday, a conservative group that has been pushing baseless claims that absentee voting is rife with fraud abruptly dropped lawsuits it had filed in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia with no explanation.

One Trump campaign case that is still pending seeks to block the certification of election results in Michigan, but the state appeals court on Monday denied another bid to stop the certification of Detroit-area votes.

In Pennsylvania, the Trump legal challenge being heard Tuesday centers on how some counties let voters fix, or “cure,” mail-in ballots that lacked secrecy envelopes or had other problems. The Trump campaign’s lawsuit claims counties’ inconsistent practices violated constitutional rights of due process and equal protection under the law and resulted in the “unlawful dilution or debasement” of properly cast votes.

“Democratic heavy counties,” the lawsuit alleges, notified voters about the lack of secrecy envelopes or other problems in time for some to fix them, but counties in Republican regions “followed the law and did not provide a notice and cure process, disenfranchising many.”

The lawsuit seeks to stop Bookvar and election boards in seven Biden-majority counties that are co-defendants from counting absentee and mail-in ballots that the Republican president’s campaign claims were “improperly permitted to be cured.”





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# Chris Paul traded to Suns in blockbuster deal

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
Associated Press

Chris Paul holds a \$44 million option for the 2021-22 season, a massive payday that may have kept some teams from trying to trade for the All-Star point guard. The Phoenix Suns weren't deterred.

They have a pair of All-Stars in their backcourt now, with hopes the duo of Paul and Devin Booker — one of the league's most dynamic young scorers — will be enough to get the franchise back to the postseason for the first time since 2010.

The trade sending Paul to the Suns from Oklahoma City was completed Monday night, a blockbuster to start what could be a wild few days of NBA transactions before training camps begin next month.

The particulars: The Suns get Paul and forward Abdel Nader, while the Thunder get Kelly Ou-

bre Jr., Ricky Rubio, Ty Jerome, Jalen Lecque and a protected 2022 first-round pick.

"We are excited to welcome Chris Paul and Abdel Nader to Phoenix," Suns general manager James Jones said. "Chris' leadership and competitive approach to the game will have an immeasurable impact on our team. Abdel possesses all the traits on and off the court that will complement our culture."

Rubio reacted to the trade news with a tweet, several hours before the moves got league approval and could be considered official: "... what a business," he wrote.

It is a huge leap for the Suns, who went 8-0 inside the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World in a frantic, but futile, quest to make the playoffs. Paul is owed about \$41 million for this season and has that player option for next season, but the Suns obviously felt that is money worth spending.

Combined, he and Booker will make around \$140 million in the next two seasons alone. But the Suns now have a starting backcourt that should be as good — or better — than just about any other NBA team.

"We want to thank Chris for the contributions he has made to the Thunder and the Oklahoma City community both this season and during his initial tenure in 2005-06 with the Hornets," Thunder general manager Sam Presti said. "Chris has been the consummate leader and has left a tremendous legacy in a short period of time."

It's the second trade that the Thunder agreed to in a span of two days, the first coming Sunday when they agreed to send Dennis Schroder to the Los Angeles Lakers for Danny Green and the 28th pick in Wednesday's draft. That transaction will be completed after the draft, a person with knowledge of those

particulars told AP.

That trade, along with the Paul trade, could give the Thunder as many as 17 first-round picks in the next seven drafts.

Paul was an All-Star for the 10th time this past season, averaging 17.6 points and 6.7 assists. Phoenix becomes his fourth team in less than four years; he was with the Los Angeles Clippers through the 2016-17 season, then spent two years in Houston, then last year with the Thunder after being acquired as part of the trade that sent Russell Westbrook to the Rockets.

"Man, I'm 35 years old and I still get a chance to play basketball every day and say that's my way of life," Paul said last week, when asked about trade rumors during an appearance in the Time100 speakers' series. "That is crazy in itself so regardless what happens, I'll be ready."

Paul is also president of the National Basketball Players

Association. The trade reunites him with Suns coach Monty Williams; Paul played for Williams in 2010-11 when Williams was in his first season coaching the New Orleans Hornets.

"He is the kind of guy that changes organizations," Williams said before the Suns and Thunder played on Jan. 31. "Everywhere he has gone, he has made everybody better. That is just who Chris is."

Oubre averaged a career-high 18.7 points last season. Rubio is entering his 10th NBA season and has also played for the Timberwolves and Jazz. He signed a three-year, \$51 million deal with the Suns before last season and averaged 13 points and 8.8 assists with Phoenix.

Jerome was the 24th overall pick out of Virginia last season and played in 31 games as a rookie while averaging 3.3 points. Lecque played in five games last season.

## Cousins gets first Monday victory

CHICAGO (AP) — Kirk Cousins will take a victory any day of the week. That he finally got one on a Monday night didn't seem to matter.

Cousins threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns, and the Minnesota Vikings overcame a 104-yard kickoff return by Chicago's Cordarrelle Patterson to beat the Bears 19-13.

Cousins won for the first time in 10 career Monday night starts. He hit Adam Thielen with a 6-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter to put Minnesota ahead by the final margin, and the Vikings (4-5) held on for their third straight win. They also snapped a four-game losing streak against Chicago (5-5).

"Great to get a win," Cousins said. "We'll try to keep building on it now, and it'll be so important to keep stringing these together if we can. That's really what the rest of the season will be all about."

Bears quarterback Nick Foles got taken from the field on a cart in the game's final minute. Coach Matt Nagy said Foles' leg and hip were being evaluated after he got slammed on his right side by Minnesota's Ifeadi Odenigbo as he threw the ball away.

Patterson joined Josh Cribbs and Leon Washington as the only players with eight kick returns for touchdowns when he ran back the opening kickoff of the second half to give Chicago a 13-7 lead. It was the longest kickoff return in franchise history, surpassing Gale Sayers' 103-yarder against Pittsburgh on Sept. 17, 1967.

Patterson had all the room he needed as he sprinted up the sideline and raised two fingers as he closed in on the end zone.

"I don't know what I did, man. I was blacked out at the time," Patterson said.

The record return was the lone bright spot for the Bears as they lost their fourth in a row and matched their longest skid since Nagy was hired in 2018.

Cousins completed 25 of 36 passes with two touchdowns to Thielen, who has nine on the season. His one-handed TD grab in the first quarter was particularly impressive.

Minnesota's Dalvin Cook ran for 96 yards on 30 attempts. Justin Jefferson caught eight passes for 135 yards and tied Randy Moss' club rookie record with his fourth 100-yard receiving game.

The defense did not allow an offensive touchdown for the first time in 20 games.



John Gunther, The World

George Rodriguez throws the ball in for Marshfield during its match against North Bend on Monday night.

## Soccer teams bond through fall matches

**JOHN GUNTHER**  
The World

COOS BAY — The actual Oregon School Activities Association soccer season is still a few months away, but Marshfield and North Bend are working hard to prepare for that season in a series of games over the next several weeks.

After getting their feet wet with short scrimmages that also included Brookings-Harbor last week, the Pirates and Bulldogs played a full match Monday night, something they are scheduled to do another four times over the coming weeks.

"It's an opportunity to get a connection, to bond for the spring," said Marshfield's Alberto Castillo after Monday's match, a 6-1 win by the Pirates.

He added it's a chance for the older members of the team to grow as leaders for the younger players.

Through the practice and the first few games, the Pirates have grown as a group, added teammate Austin Nielsen. They hope to continue that trend.

"We just want to get it together — to get chemistry," Nielsen said.

One thing the Pirates have been able to do is play their style,

especially Monday.

"We want to get control, to play at our pace," Castillo said.

The Pirates used that pace to create opportunities in both halves of Monday's match.

By the final horn, Rorberto Castillo and Jacob Eastwood each had scored a pair of goals for Marshfield. David Garica Flores and Julian Yanez Torres each converted penalty kicks and Torres also had a trio of assists.

North Bend's goal came in the second half, courtesy of Kevin Garcia.

Though the score was not close Monday, the Bulldogs felt

good about how they played, too.

"We played a lot better than last time," said John Efraimson. "We're communicating more, spreading out, working on passing the ball."

Like the Pirates, the Bulldogs are happy to improve for the coming season, Efraimson said. "It makes me really excited," he said.

More than that, though, the players are just delighted to get an opportunity.

"It's good to be able to do something," Efraimson said. "Most people in the state don't get to do anything right now."

## Chiefs sign coach Reid, GM Veach to extensions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs signed Andy Reid and Brett Veach to contract extensions Monday that will provide added stability by keeping together the most successful coach/general manager combination in franchise history well into the future.

The Chiefs declined to announce the terms of the extensions, though it's unlikely Reid or Veach was going anywhere. They have built a juggernaut together, reaching back-to-back AFC championship games and delivering the Chiefs their first Super Bowl title in 50 years last season. And at 8-1, they are in good position to defend the title.

"If you think about the journey we've been on the last eight years, we hired Andy and we were

coming off several very difficult seasons, and the turnaround with Andy was almost immediate," Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt said. "And to his credit he's done nothing but get better, and obviously that crescendo with the Super Bowl victory this past February."

Reid, who recently passed Curly Lambeau for fifth on the NFL wins list with 230, is in the midst of his eighth season in Kansas City after a long tenure in Philadelphia. He took over a team that was 2-14 upon his arrival and built a consistent winner, one that has reached new heights under Super Bowl MVP quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

Veach was a big reason the Chiefs landed Mahomes. He argued vociferously to draft him as a member of then-GM John

Dorsey's front office, then took over the general manager's job when Dorsey was fired three years ago.

"When the Chiefs came to Kansas City back in 1963, they were fortunate to have what would be a Hall of Fame coach and also would be a Hall of Fame quarterback, and I think we're in a similar position today," said Hunt, referring to Hank Stram and Len Dawson, the duo that led the franchise to its first championship in 1970.

"The value of a great head coach in the NFL cannot be overstated. I think in a lot of ways, it's similar to the value of a great quarterback," Hunt continued. "When you have the two of them together, you can have a lot of success."

Indeed, the signing of Reid and Veach follows the signing of Mahomes to the richest deal for a player in NFL history. He inked a contract this past summer that could be worth a half-billion dollars over the course of 10 years.

The Chiefs' ability to sign Mahomes to a such a lucrative deal while also signing defensive tackle Chris Jones and defensive end Frank Clark to long-term contracts — and luring such pricey free agents as safety Tyrann Mathieu to Kansas City — speaks to the job Veach has done in managing the salary cap. One of Dorsey's biggest shortcomings was doling out bloated contracts that kept the Chiefs from being a consistent winner, but Veach has been able to make the numbers work.