

# Nation



**"I am the only candidate with the onions to take back the city. I have the street cred. I have bled in the streets. I've given seven lives. I have two left. I'll use them for the city of New York."**

— Curtis Siwa, founder of the Guardian Angels and now a radio talk-show host, announcing to the New York Post he will run for mayor next year as term-limited Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio steps down. A Republican, Mr. Siwa said his platform will include ditching the mayor's security detail and adding more officers in uniform to fight crime.

## HEALTH

## American Indian tribes see lag in aid to fight coronavirus

By **CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The email from Indian Health Services last Friday contained some good news — a shipment of badly needed respiratory masks was now available.

There was just one hitch: The warranty on the masks had expired — "beyond the manufactured-designated shelf life," according to the email sent by an IHS official to directors of health care and community programs for urban American Indians around the country.

Although IHS maintains the devices are still safe to use, Indian representatives said the email shared with The Washington Times typified the response to coronavirus for their communities, where health care standards lag and some officials are bracing for disproportionate impact from the rampaging coronavirus threat.

An enrolled tribal member who works at a casino in Oregon became the first known American Indian to become

infected with COVID-19 last week. The Navajo Nation convened a response team last month, but is now awaiting word on how recently appropriated congressional dollars will reach them. And on Sunday evening, the president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe discouraged anyone not living on the sprawling Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota to stay away until further notice.

"In order to further protect the health and general welfare of the Oglala Lakota Nation, I strongly recommend the general public coming from off the reservation to visit, to postpone your visits until a time deemed necessary that the travel suspension is lifted," said OST President Julian Bear Runner in a statement.

The 574 federally recognized tribes are facing an additional hurdle as the virus spreads: a fractious relationship with the federal government, which is required through treaties to provide health care in return for the past ceding of lands. Last week, President Trump signed a law freeing up \$8.3 billion in funding to boost

**"I strongly believe we're going to see disproportionate impact in our communities."**

— Abigail Echo-Hawk,  
Urban Indian Health Institute

resources — from developing vaccines within the Office of Health and Human Services to community health centers for underserved groups — to fight the epidemic that now has claimed two dozen lives in the U.S. That funding included \$40 million in for tribal health programs, ranging from rural reservation clinics to the 12 epidemiology centers around the country. But much of the money will come through grants to the states, and then, in theory, to tribal nations. That's a process that makes many Native leaders wary.

"While Congress passed the funding, the mechanism to get the money to both

the tribes and native health programs doesn't exist," said Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of the Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle. "Do I think [congressional funding] is enough? Absolutely not. Is it a good start? Yes."

Leaders of the Navajo Nation, home to more than 20 federally funded health care facilities, also expressed frustration with ambiguity on how funding will reach their tribal government, where preparation efforts — paid for out of the tribe's general fund — are already underway.

"Those types of details we don't know," Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez told The Washington Times on Monday. "Those questions are being asked not just by Navajo, but all tribes."

The email regarding IHS's issuance of past-shelf-life respiratory masks only illustrates the problems fighting coronavirus in clinics and facilities that have been historically underfunded.

"I strongly believe we're going to see disproportionate impact in our

communities," said Colorado's Ms. Echo-Hawk.

With tribes like the Oglala Sioux moving to impose their own restrictions, Tara Sweeney, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, told The Washington Times that tribal governments have a right to exercise "self-determination."

"Indian Affairs respects a tribes' right to exercise self-determination in formulating appropriate responses to the health and well-being of their members and community," said Ms. Sweeney.

Officials with Navajo Nation — where there are, so far, no confirmed COVID-19 cases — did not say they had plans to implement a travel ban for persons living off-reservation. But they did say some federal health care workers pulled from IHS facilities in or near the Navajo Nation to aid in coronavirus cases elsewhere could face a tribally-imposed 45-day lockout if they returned.

"We could revisit a travel advisory," said Mr. Nez. "That is within our right."

## TECHNOLOGY

## Ex-CIA coder found guilty of minor charges

Was accused of stealing trove of hacking tools

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER AND JIM MUSTIAN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** | A former CIA software engineer accused of stealing a massive trove of the agency's hacking tools and handing it over to WikiLeaks was convicted of only minor charges Monday, after a jury deadlocked on the more serious espionage charges against him.

Joshua Schulte, who worked as a coder at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was convicted by a jury of contempt of court and making false statements after a four-week trial in Manhattan federal court that offered an unusual window into the CIA's digital sleuthing and the team that designs computer code to spy on foreign adversaries. After deliberating since last week, the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the more significant charges. They had notified U.S. District Judge Paul A. Crotty on Friday that they had reached consensus on two counts, but were unable to reach a verdict on eight others.

After they were instructed to resume

deliberations Monday, jurors sent a note saying they were "extremely deadlocked."

The verdict inspired smiles by Schulte and his lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, who described the charges he was convicted of afterward as "the most inconsequential."

One juror said as she left the courthouse that the jury was always split down the middle on the most serious counts, although the jury was composed of only 11 people after one juror was dismissed last week when she told the panel she had come across news about the case before the trial.

Juror Alexis Anthony said she never thought the evidence was strong enough to convict Schulte of espionage-related charges.

"For me, I never felt the burden of proof was proved," she said.

Prosecutors portrayed Schulte as a disgruntled software engineer who exploited a little-known back door in a CIA network to copy the hacking arsenal without raising suspicion, in what was said to be the largest leak in CIA history involving classified information.

It was only after the anti-secrecy



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former CIA software engineer Joshua Schulte (center) was convicted by a jury of contempt of court and making false statements after a four-week trial. Schulte is accused of stealing a massive trove of the agency's hacking tools and handing it over to WikiLeaks.

group WikiLeaks published the so-called Vault 7 leak in 2017 — nearly a year after the theft — that the agency scrambled to determine how the information had been stolen. It identified Schulte, a 31-year-old originally from Lubbock, Texas, as the prime suspect.

Schulte had left the agency on stormy terms after falling out with colleagues

and supervisors, and prosecutors described the leak as an act of revenge.

Ms. Shroff argued that investigators could not be sure who took the data because the CIA network in question "was the farthest thing from being secure."

"Hundreds of people had access to it," she said. "Hundreds of people could have stolen it."

Prosecutors said Schulte, after being arrested in New York, attempted to leak even more classified information using a contraband cellphone that had been smuggled into the Metropolitan Correctional Center. They said he declared an "information war" and was "prepared to burn down the United States government."

## FLORIDA

## 1 kid, 2 kids. Ah! Ah! Ah! Census, 'Sesame Street' join forces

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ORLANDO, FLA.** | No age group was undercounted as much during the last once-a-decade census as children under 5, researchers say. "Sesame Street" is hoping to use Count von Count to change that.

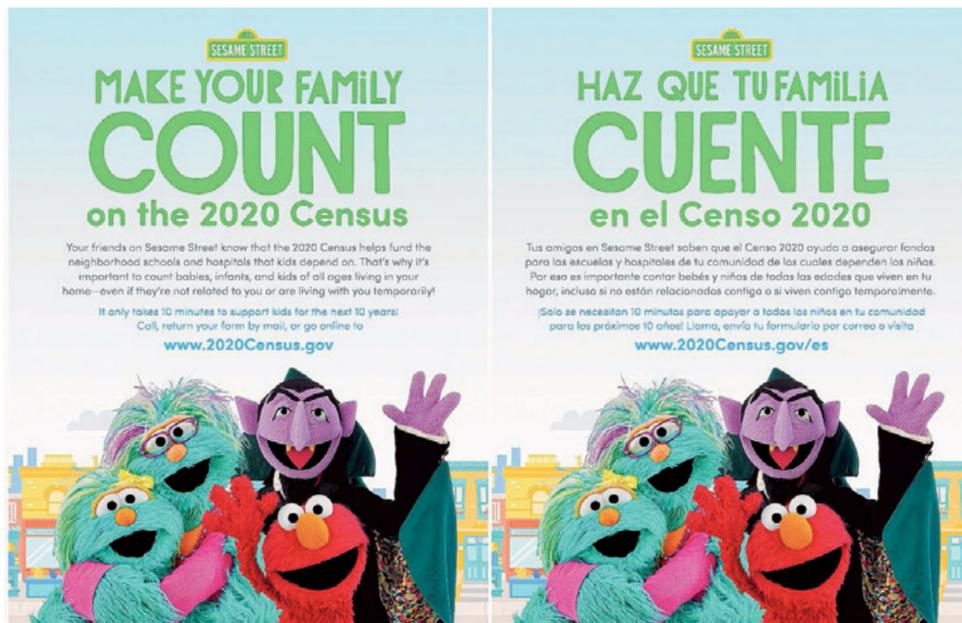
The Muppet best known as the Count is joining Elmo, Rosita and her mom, Rosa, in public service announcements filmed on the set of the long-running educational television show. The spots encourage parents of young children to make sure they and their children are counted in the 2020 census.

The public service announcements in English and Spanish started airing Monday. The head count starts for most people this Thursday.

In the ad, the Count plays a census taker. Casting for the spots was purposeful, Sesame Workshop officials said.

"Rosita is a bilingual Muppet. Elmo is popular and connected to young children and families, and the Count is so logical when it comes to being counted," said Jeanette Betancourt, Sesame Workshop's senior vice president of U.S. Social Impact.

The "Sesame Street" characters join a growing group of celebrities using their influence to encourage people to be counted. Morgan Freeman made a public service announcement for census outreach efforts in Mississippi. "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York Democrat, cut one for New York City. Sesame Workshop also is offering



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Sesame Street" is using Count von Count and other Muppet characters in public service announcements that promote the 2020 Census. The ads encourage parents of young children to make sure they and their children are counted.

fliers and information about the census that can be downloaded and distributed from its website. The television show has promoted the census every decade since 1980, when the character Maria became a census-taker in the "Sesame Street" neighborhood.

Demographers estimate that 4.6% of children under 5, or 1 million

children, weren't missed in the 2010 census. The undercounting was worst in minority communities, with undercounting for Hispanic children estimated at 7.5% and for black children at 6.3%, according to researchers.

The consequences of overlooking young children in a community can be harmful since the decennial census

helps determine the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending, including money for schools, Head Start and family nutrition programs.

"We are hoping to really make a dent in that this time. I think that's really, really good because certainly the children are the future," said Stephen Buckner, a senior executive at the U.S.

Census Bureau. "Someone entering the 1st grade is going to be an 11th grader at the next census. There's a lot that can change in that person's life from grade 1 to grade 10."

Researchers who have examined the undercount say young children are more likely to be living in multi-generational households, living in foster care, in more than one household because of parental custody arrangements like apartments that are difficult to access.

"Our youngest Americans need and deserve the resources that are vital to get an accurate count," said Rep. Katherine Clark, Massachusetts Democrat, last week.

The decennial national count is gearing up among larger questions over how effective the counting will be this year.

A Government Accountability Office review last month concluded that the U.S. Census Bureau is behind in recruiting workers and establishing partnerships with civic groups, and it is at risk of missing some informational technology testing goals.

While the Census Bureau has succeeded so far in early tasks of verifying addresses across the U.S. and launching an advertising campaign, the agency's readiness for upcoming operations is mixed, according to the GAO report.

The GAO report said the bureau was at risk of missing testing milestones for five IT operations, including one that will allow people to self-respond and another for following-up with households that haven't answered the questions on their own.

# Nation



"It seems to me such a simple thing to be able to say, 'Hey, if you're riding in my car, can you put on your seat belt? Because I want to keep you safe.' And that's the way I look at wearing a mask or getting a flu vaccine ... It seems like a no-brainer."

—Actress Rita Wilson

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# More adults planning on getting flu shot this year

## Survey finds 59% will get vaccine this season

By SHEN WU TAN

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More U.S. adults said they plan on getting the flu vaccine this season compared to last season as health experts warn about a potential impending "twindemic" during the upcoming colder months.

A national survey released Thursday by leading health officials found that 59% of U.S. adults planned on getting a flu vaccine this season compared to 48% who got vaccinated during the 2019-2020 season.

Flu activity often starts to increase in October, and this year coincides with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic — a respiratory illness that shares many similar traits to influenza and could lead to possible complications to

the health care system.

"It will be hard for physicians and other health care providers to tell the difference between the diseases based on symptoms alone and testing may be necessary to confirm a diagnosis and even testing has its limitations and challenges," Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University, told reporters during a webcast. "Additionally, many of the same people who are most vulnerable to serious complications of COVID-19, including older adults and those with chronic health conditions, are also at greater risk for complications from flu."

According to the survey, 28% of respondents say they are more likely to get a flu vaccine due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey by the National Foundation

for Infectious Diseases (NFID) included 1,000 responses from adults 18 years and older from all 50 states and the District.

Nearly half of survey respondents, 46%, are very worried about contracting COVID-19, but only 23% are similarly concerned about being infected with the flu. The same percentage of respondents are worried about being co-infected with both COVID-19 and flu.

As of Thursday, the coronavirus has sickened more than 7.2 million people in the U.S. and killed more than 207,000, a tally from Johns Hopkins University shows.

For the 2019-2020 flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 38 million influenza illnesses, 18 million medical visits, 400,000



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A national survey found that 59% of U.S. adults planned on getting a flu shot this season compared to 48% who got one during the 2019-2020 season. Last year, the flu resulted in 22,000 deaths in the U.S.

hospitalizations and 22,000 deaths in the U.S.

Shared symptoms of both flu and COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

Due to both illnesses spreading at the same time, doctors warn it could cause confusion and stretch health systems to the limit and are urging people to get their flu shot to reduce the possible burden to these systems and to protect vulnerable

populations.

Top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci on Thursday touted the benefits of the flu vaccine, which he said can provide partial protection even if a person does get sick. He noted the CDC estimates the flu vaccine prevented 7.5 million illnesses and 6,300 flu deaths last season.

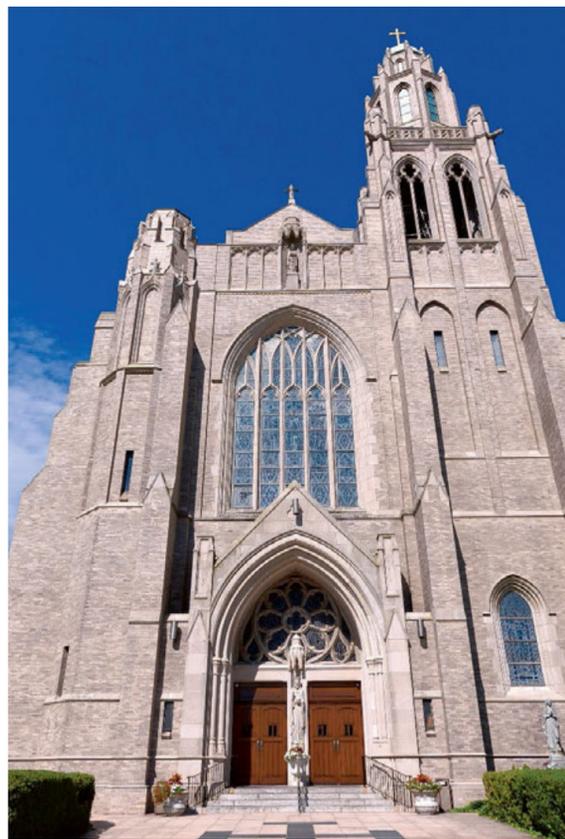
"Influenza vaccinations are important to prevent infection and to modify infections when you get it ... It is a serious disease. It is not trivial," he said. "You superimpose that with the

challenge we will inevitably face with COVID as we get into fall and winter and go more indoors which will be challenging for the prevention of a respiratory infection. So let's do what we can with the tools that we have."

While the Southern Hemisphere, where the flu season runs from April to end of August, reported a dramatic drop in influenza cases, CDC influenza director Dr. Daniel Jernigan said he is unsure if that would be the case for the U.S.

"As we go into this flu season and fall and winter, people are not going to be able to eat outside. They are going to have to eat inside at restaurants. They're going to be spending more time inside. People are probably going to go to work more than they were previously and schools are opening up," Dr. Jernigan said. "We know that influenza really likes school children. They like university students, and those are settings where transmission can occur with flu. So if those kinds of transmissions are happening, or those opportunities occur, both COVID and flu can take off. So we don't know exactly what will happen."

The NFID survey also found that 15% of respondents said they were not sure if they would get a flu vaccine.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre on New York's Long Island filed for bankruptcy Thursday due financial pressure from lawsuits over past sexual abuse by clergy members. The petitions follow bankruptcy declarations in Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester.

## NEW YORK

# Long Island diocese files for bankruptcy

## Victims: Rockville Centre move a ploy

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Roman Catholic diocese on New York's Long Island filed for bankruptcy Thursday — the fourth diocese in the state to do so since authorities extended the statute of limitation on sex abuse cases last year.

"In the year since the passage of the Child Victim's Act, more than 200 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse have been filed against the diocese," Rockville Centre Bishop John Barres said Thursday in a video. "What became clear was that the diocese was not going to be a blessing to carry out its spiritual, charitable, and educational missions if it were to continue to shoulder the increasingly heavy burden of litigation expenses associated with these cases."

Jeff Anderson, an attorney who represents sex abuse victims, said the bankruptcy declaration was just ploy for the Diocese of Rockville Centre to avoid

paying victims' higher damages. In a press conference Thursday, he accused the diocese of "under-representing" assets, including "massive amounts of real estate."

"Like their recent attacks on the Child Victims Act and their efforts to intimidate survivors from coming forward, we see the Diocese's decision to declare bankruptcy as strategic, cowardly and wholly self-serving," Mr. Anderson said.

The diocese, one of the nation's largest, said in papers filed with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York that it serves 1.4 million baptized Catholics on Long Island. The diocese also claimed \$200 million in assets and \$100 in liabilities.

Rockville Centre's bankruptcy petitions follow bankruptcy declarations by dioceses in Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester. Last month, a state judge refused to throw out child sex abuse lawsuits filed against Rockville Centre.

Meanwhile, a victims' rights group in Philadelphia on Thursday published a report that the church's plans to end child sex abuse by clergy insufficient, saying individual prevention policies among the nation's 32 archdioceses do not reach a "gold standard."

However, when the better practices of all the archdioceses are pooled, "such a standard begins to take form," says the CHILD USA report.

The report links various legal settlements between victims and local administrators of the Catholic church to a "hodgepodge" of child protection policies, including a toll-free phone number in Los Angeles, a "safe touch" educational campaign in Indianapolis and a whistleblower policy in Davenport, Iowa.

"States and local jurisdictions may have different reporting requirements and diocese may have different population needs," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told The Associated Press. "Thus, a one-size-fits-all approach is less effective than principles that can be applied and adapted locally."

The bishops' conference itself came under fire in Thursday's report. Investigators for Child USA noted a grand jury found 37 credibly accused priests were still "openly working in the [Philadelphia] Archdiocese," even after

the archdiocese passed an audit by the conference's Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth, a protocol established by bishops in 2002.

"The archdiocesan response to those reports and the lessons learned from them is not relegated to any one statement," Archdiocese of Philadelphia spokesman Ken Gavin told The Washington Times. "Rather, the response is a comprehensive and ongoing one that seeks to prevent abuse from taking place and to assist survivors and their families on the path to healing."

More than two dozen dioceses have filed bankruptcy petitions since the beginning of the church's sex abuse scandal nearly two decades ago.

In Rockville Centre, Bishop Barres said the diocese had paid out more than \$60 million to 350 survivors. He maintained that the decision to ask a court to restructure diocesan finances will enable payment of "equitable" damages.

Documents filed with the bankruptcy court on Thursday show that COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions led to smaller offertory collections at the 135 parishes on Long Island since March. During Holy Week, the diocese says it garnered \$363,000 — or 40% of last year's collection — from charitable giving.

## CALIFORNIA

# Help inspire firefighters I will: Baby Yoda lifts crews' spirits

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** | Beleaguered firefighters in the western United States have a new force on their side: Baby Yoda.

A 5-year-old Oregon boy and his grandmother delivered a toy version of the pointy-eared Force user to a donation center for firefighters on Sept. 12 along with a note that

read: "Here is a friend for you in case you get lonely?"

Since then, Baby Yoda has been to four wildfires in two states, ridden in helicopters, checked people's temperatures for COVID-19 symptoms, and even used "the Force" to move a firefighting tool known as a pulaski.

A Facebook page called "Baby Yoda fights fires" has been documenting his journey and spreading joy far beyond the fire lines. More than 30,000 people and counting are following the page

as he travels from crew to crew.

"It's a miracle how one small gesture can create a wave of kindness," said Sasha Tinning, the 54-year-old Scappoose, Oregon, woman who spotted Baby Yoda while shopping for items to donate to the firefighters with her grandson, Carver.

"I turn around and this Baby Yoda is just looking right at me and he was a darn cute little fella," Ms. Tinning said. "I said, 'Hey, this looks neat, maybe we should take this to the firefighters.'"

That's when Carver chimed in. "He said they could have a friend, and I thought everyone needs a friend, especially now," Ms. Tinning said. She wrote a note with the sentiment to firefighters and had Carver sign it.

The note remains with Baby Yoda today, pinned in a plastic baggie on his back, along with the phone number of Tyler Eubanks, the 31-year-old Scappoose horse dentist who is organizing firefighter donations, got Baby Yoda to them and is now running the Facebook page.

As the firefighters take pictures of Baby Yoda's adventures, they text her the photos so she can get them up on the page,



Firefighters (from left) Lucas Galloway, Jaebyn Drake, Rhett Schieder and Audrey Wilcox pose for a selfie with a Baby Yoda toy while fighting a fire in Oregon. A 5-year-old Oregon boy named Carver and his grandmother delivered the toy to a donation center for firefighters. The toy came with a handwritten note from Carver.

much to the delight of his fans.

"I look for updates several times during a normal day," Jacki Wittman of Columbia City, Oregon, wrote on a recent post.

Diane Arzente, another fan of the Facebook page, wrote: "Baby Yoda and a little boy are spreading so much love and happiness

all over ... Keep the force going!" Dr. Eubanks can't believe the response.

"I really didn't know that this was going to literally take off like a wildfire," she said, adding that she thinks our troubled times helped fuel Baby Yoda's popularity. "They're having fun and it's taking

stress out of a very dark situation."

Wildfires in the Western U.S. have scorched millions of acres, destroyed thousands of homes and claimed dozens of lives, including firefighters.

Add that stress to the back-breaking job the firefighters have, trudging through backcountry,

digging fire lines, working 16-hour days, all while being away from their families for weeks.

For them, Baby Yoda is more than just a bright spot.

He's been "a really big morale boost," said staff Sgt. Jaebyn Drake, a firefighter with the Oregon Air National Guard who added an American flag bandana to Baby Yoda's forehead to complete his look.

"A lot of the people on my crew, I showed them the note and everything and they just loved it," said Sgt. Drake, 28. "A couple people broke down in tears ... It just really meant a lot to us and it was really emotional for a lot of people."

Sgt. Drake said it was extra special for him as a longtime "Star Wars" fan who also loves "The Mandalorian" TV show on Disney+, where Baby Yoda made his debut last year and quickly became an internet sensation.

Baby Yoda is now so in demand after his tours in Oregon and Colorado that fire crews from California, Washington and Canada all have requested that he join them.

"I'm hoping that we can keep it going," Sgt. Drake said. "He's the 21st century Smokey the Bear."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**THE PATH FORWARD:** President-elect Joseph R. Biden was able to cut deals with the GOP while he was vice president.

CONGRESS

## Biden faces tightrope with next Congress

By DAVID SHERFINSKI  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President-elect Joseph R. Biden is about to walk straight into a buzz saw in Congress after saying during the campaign that Republicans would have an “epiphany” once President Trump was toppled, a stance many on the left dismissed as hopelessly naive. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Wednesday that Republicans can’t be expected to reach across the aisle if Mr. Biden and his team stake out far-left

### Even with victories in Georgia, thin party margins will force balancing act

positions on issues such as immigration. “If he wants to undo border security, we’ll have a fight,” Mr. Graham said. “The question for me is, who will he respond to? Is he going to respond to the most radical elements of the Democratic Party or will he respond to more moderate voice[s] in his party?” As vice president, Mr. Biden served

as something of a Mitch McConnell whisperer for former President Barack Obama, cutting deals with the Senate majority leader on major tax and spending bills. The two spoke this week, and Mr. Biden said he’s heard from a handful of Republican senators who say they’re ready to work together on infrastructure

and foreign policy. “I may eat these words, but I predict to you as Donald Trump’s shadow fades away, you’re going to see an awful lot change,” he said. During the presidential primary, liberal activists dismissed such calls and predictions. They said Democrats needed a bare-knuckle brawler to confront and eviscerate the GOP after four years of Mr. Trump. Jen O’Malley Dillon, Mr. Biden’s

» see **BIDEN** | A6

STIMULUS

## Virus relief package on path for approval

### Includes round of direct payments

By GABRIELLA MUÑOZ  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Congressional leaders on Wednesday were on the precipice of a \$900 billion coronavirus relief deal, the first major bipartisan package on track for a vote since the spring.

The deal in the works included another round of direct payments to individuals and families, according to details leaked from the closed-door talks.

The package would leave out the two most contentious issues — funds for state and local government and liability protections for businesses, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

The seven-month logjam finally started to break after the “Four Corners” — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy — worked late into the night Tuesday on the deal, which includes a full-year spending bill to fund the government.

Leaders from both parties were optimistic, though there is not a final timeline for an agreement.

“We remain committed to continuing these urgent discussions until we have an agreement,” said Mr. McConnell, Kentucky Republican. “We will not leave town until we’ve made law.”

Mr. Schumer, New York Democrat, echoed that optimism, saying “it’s not a done deal yet. But we are very close.”

» see **RELIEF** | A5

## UP TO SNOW GOOD



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Krystal Krause (right) rides a tube and Lilyann Richard, 11, snowboards down a hill during a snowstorm Wednesday in Lutherville, Maryland. The storm caused some local schools to cancel classes or shift to remote learning for the day. Story, A12.

MILITARY

## Biden officials expected to frame climate change as threat to security

By BEN WOLFGANG  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Climate change soon will be thrust back into the spotlight at the Pentagon, with the incoming Biden administration set to frame the issue as an immediate threat to national security, a destabilizing force around the world, and a danger to U.S. military installations at home and abroad.

The looming shift at the Defense

Department, analysts and insiders say, will represent something of a return to the Obama era, a time when Pentagon leadership loudly and consistently cast climate change as an existential challenge that must be addressed across all corners of the military and as an enemy on par with China, Russia, or Islamic extremism.

After Democrat Joseph R. Biden is sworn in as president on Jan. 20, the new dynamic is likely to be as much about

rhetoric and attitude as action. Throughout the Trump presidency, the Pentagon has prepared bases for rising sea levels and hotter temperatures, moved to more fuel-efficient technologies, and implemented a host of other programs and initiatives that military leaders said address the risks that a changing climate pose to military readiness.

Missing from that approach, however,

» see **MILITARY** | A11

VIRGINIA

## Civil rights champion to replace Lee statue

### Teen led strike at high school in 1951

By STEPHEN DINAN  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Virginia’s special history commission on Wednesday picked Barbara Rose Johns, a lesser-known civil rights pioneer who led an early school desegregation effort, as the figure it wants to send to Washington to replace the state’s current statue of Robert E. Lee in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol.

Brushing aside suggestions of Revolutionary War-era heroes such as James Madison or Patrick Henry, and 20th-century statesman George C. Marshall, the commission said it wanted someone schoolchildren would identify with — and Johns, who was a teen in 1951 when she led a strike at her Virginia high school to demand facilities like White students had, fit the bill.

The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sued on the students’ behalf, in a case that would get merged into the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision that outlawed segregated schools.

“The impact of what she did as a young person is so compelling and it changed so many lives,” said Margaret Vanderhye, a former Democratic state lawmaker and one of the commissioners. “Sometimes the history finds the people.”

The commission’s vote was 6-1, with the lone dissent coming from Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Tribe, who cast her vote for Pocahontas, an iconic figure from the beginning of the

» see **STATUE** | A6

CULTURE

## Coronavirus won’t silence these nights

### Carolers sing proudly in 2020

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

’Tis the season to be careful: Christmas carolers are adapting with Plexiglas and extreme distance this season, as health experts warn about the dangers that singing poses during the coronavirus pandemic.

In the St. Louis region, carolers have raised millions of dollars for children for more than a century at Christmastime, and this year will be no different — except singers will perform “Oh Come,

All Ye Faithful” via video, not on doorsteps.

“I think people are so glad that we didn’t throw in the towel and say, ‘Another year,’” said Lynn O’Brien, interim director of the St. Louis Christmas Carol Association.

This year her group is raising money by producing digital “caroling telegrams,” or short videos. “It’s just this way to ripple out joy,” Ms. O’Brien said.

Efforts to “ripple out joy”

» see **CAROLING** | A11

WHITE HOUSE

## Is there a doctor in the White House?

### Incoming first lady’s insistence on title causes national uproar

By VALERIE RICHARDSON  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WHAT’S IN A TITLE?** Jill Biden has earned a doctorate in education. She insists on being addressed as “Dr. Jill Biden.” A column on Sunday in The Wall Street Journal said that she should no longer use the title.

Jill Biden holds a doctorate in education, but her insistence on being referred to as “Dr. Jill Biden” has touched off a political and media uproar over whether that makes her a courageous feminist role model or a pretentious credential snob.

Her title became a cause celebre after Joseph Epstein suggested Sunday in The Wall Street Journal that she lose the “Dr.,” telling her it “sounds and feels fraudulent, not to say a touch

comic” — a puckish piece of advice that has been heatedly decried as sexist, offensive and patronizing.

Heatedly, but not universally. Conservative writers and intellectuals are sticking to their long-held posture that with few exceptions, those who insist on being referred to “Dr.” for anything other than an M.D. — Mrs. Biden’s degree is an Ed.D. — deserve to be taken down a peg.

“Joseph Epstein had it exactly right in his Wall Street Journal

» see **DOCTOR** | A6

POLITICS

**Pence to headline rallies for Republican senators in Georgia. A4**

NATION

**Federal government executed more inmates than all U.S. states. A8**

WORLD

**U.S. officials scramble to access full scope of software hack. A10**

SPORTS

**Washington’s McLaurin among top receivers from 2019 draft. B12**

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 252

