

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 24 - 30, 2020



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CONGRESS APPROVES \$900B COVID RELIEF BILL, SENDING TO TRUMP

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress passed a \$900 billion pandemic relief package that would finally deliver long-sought cash to businesses and individuals and resources to vaccinate a nation confronting a frightening surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Lawmakers tacked on a \$1.4 trillion catchall spending bill and thousands of pages of other end-of-session business in a massive bundle of bipartisan legislation as Capitol Hill prepared to close the books on the year. The bill approved Monday night went to President Donald Trump for his signature, which was expected in the coming days.

The relief package, unveiled Monday afternoon, sped through the House and Senate in a matter of hours. The Senate cleared the massive package by a 92-6 vote after the House approved the COVID-19 package by another lop-



U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is seen at the U.S. Capitol at night after negotiators sealed a deal for COVID relief Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, in Washington. Top Capitol Hill negotiators sealed a deal Sunday on an almost \$1 trillion COVID-19 economic relief package, finally delivering long-overdue help to businesses and individuals and providing money to deliver vaccines to a nation eager for them. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana.)

sided vote, 359-53. The tallies were a bipartisan coda to months of partisanship and politicking as lawmakers wrangled over the relief question, a logjam that broke

after President-elect Joe Biden urged his party to accept a compromise with top Republicans that is smaller than many Democrats would have

liked.

The bill combines coronavirus-fighting funds with financial relief for individuals and businesses. It would establish a tem-

porary \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a \$600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies

for hard-hit businesses, restaurants, and theaters and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

The 5,593-page legislation — by far the longest bill ever — came together Sunday after months of battling, posturing and postelection negotiating that reined in a number of Democratic demands as the end of the congressional session approached. Biden was eager for a deal to deliver long-awaited help to suffering people and a boost to the economy, even though it was less than half the size that Democrats wanted in the fall.

“This deal is not everything I want — not by a long shot,” said Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, D-Mass., a longstanding voice in the party’s old-school liberal wing. “The choice before us is simple. It’s about

Continue **Relief** Page 7

Texas Governor Gets Vaccine



Registered nurse April Burgeons administers a dose of a Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott at the Ascension Seton Medical Center on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. (Ricardo B.Brazziell /Austin American-Statesman via AP) - **Story** Page 5

President-Elect Biden Selects Fmr. Ambassador Susan Rice for Top White House Post



By **Stacy M. Brown**, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Susan Rice Official Photo

Continue **Rice** Page 5



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Both COVID-19 and the flu can be deadly diseases. And now experts say, it is possible to get both viruses at the same time. We've lost far too many lives to COVID-19.

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Get your flu shot today!**

For more information on the flu and upcoming flu drives, visit www.parklandhospital.com/flu.

For more information on COVID-19 testing, visit www.parklandhospital.com/covid19testing.



Dispelling flu shot myths

During flu season, many myths spread about the flu shot. To help you understand the facts about the flu here are the top 5 flu shot myths.

Myth 1: You can get the flu from the flu shot.

Fact: The flu shot cannot give you the flu because the virus is not alive. Some people may experience side effects, such as mild soreness or muscle ache, which can be confused with symptoms of the flu. Don't worry, you're not sick, it's just your body reacting to the shot.

Myth 2: Waiting until winter will protect me longer.

Fact: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting your flu shot by the end of October, if possible. The flu shot takes 2 weeks to protect you so the sooner the better. Even if you don't get your shot early, it's never too late for your flu shot.

Myth 3: The flu shot doesn't work anyway.

Fact: The flu shot does work. Experts review which strains of the flu are in the other areas of the world to predict which will hit the United States. It can help prevent medical problems, decrease the time and how severe the illness is.

Myth 4: I never get the flu, so I don't need the vaccine

Fact: Avoiding the flu in the past does not mean you will not get the flu in the future. Every year a new flu season puts you at risk. You can also have the flu and give it to others by not getting the vaccine.

Myth 5: I got a flu shot last year, so I don't need one this year.

Fact: This is false. Unlike some vaccines, the flu shot must be given every year to be effective.

The flu shot is by far the best way to protect against yourself from the flu. Stop the flu before it gets to you. Get your flu shot today! Flu shots are available at no cost to you at drive-through sites located at Ellis Davis Field House and Dallas Community College- Eastfield Campus. For more information on the flu and upcoming flu drives, visit www.parklandhospital.com/flu.

Homegoing Ceremony for Mrs. Ola Reagan

Born in Tyler, Texas, Ola Jane Reagan entered eternal life with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 9, 2020. Mrs. Reagan completed her formal education in the Tyler Independent School District. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Dallas Baptist University, a Master of Arts from Prairie View A&M University, and a Doctor of Religion Degree from Rialto Community Bible College.



Mrs. Reagan was married 57 years to The Late Reverend Homer D. Reagan, Founder of the East Gate Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Reagan was preceded in death by Pastor Reagan and her youngest son, Kevin Chrono Reagan.

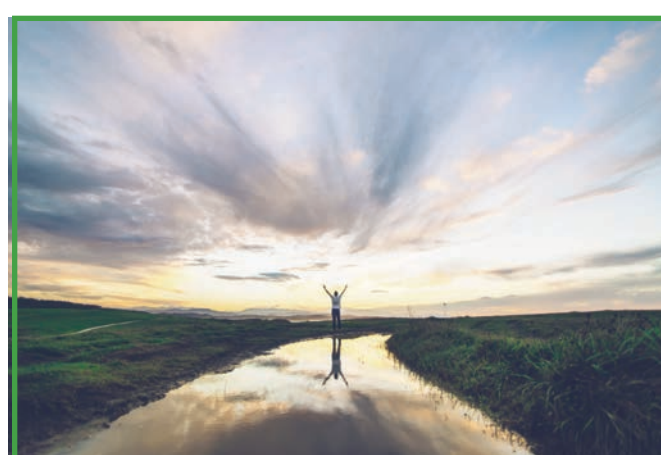
Mrs. Reagan, Co-Founder of the church, served as the Minister of Music and Director of Christian Education. Mrs. Reagan's life was a life of faithful service to God, her family, Church, Friends, and Community. She was the Matriarch (The Rock) of the family. Her love, care, concern, guidance, and leadership will be truly missed.

She leaves to cherish her memory many loved ones; Daughters: Wannetta

Reagan Flowers and Tonia Shaw (Joe). Two sons: Rev. Darren Reagan, Marlon Reagan (Anita); God-Sister: Mrs. Shirley Bailey, 20 Grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

Due to COVID-19, the Celebration of Her Life was private and limited to family, relatives, and close friends on Tuesday, December 15, at 11:00 am at East Gate Baptist Church.

Live Streaming was available at Sandra Clark Funeral Homes Facebook page



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EDITORIAL PAGE

The African American & Dr. Huang

My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. Philip Huang,
Director, Dallas County
Health & Human
Services

Who is Dr. Philip Huang? Where is he from? How effective is he with the mixed high profile cultures in

Dallas County? Does he connect to all communities? How many languages does he speak?

Several months ago, I sat down with Dr. Huang at the comprehensive Dallas County Health Offices on I35 Freeway. Dr. Huang is very calming, direct and speaks with emphasis. The young Philip Huang directed the Lake Highlands High School Band where he graduated. His family moved to Dallas in 1963

when he was 2 years old. His father is from Taiwan and his mother was born in Seattle to Japanese parents. His Dad was a seismologist hired by Atlantic Richfield in Downtown Dallas. The family settled near Stults Road an area many African Americans are familiar with. This public health administrator is a musician, an ad hoc magician with an advanced degree from Harvard, a resume that includes the CDC and he came from Austin to this job at Dallas County Health as 'top cop'.

Before the interview, I was transparent about my questions and especially the word 'disproportionately' used so frequently by newsrooms, journalists and television hosts around the globe as it relates to communities of color. How do we begin to correct this? So, we start here. We both fully acknowledged the importance of clergy, pastors, politicians but what is absent from this equation is the black media. So, I

asked if he knew there are seven(7)black press weekly publications in Southern Dallas? I introduced Dr. Huang to another very golden group that is completely overlooked. Dr. Huang was interested in connecting with the retired African American Nurses, a conversation group formed for insight during this COVID-19-to-vaccine Crisis. Our 2nd conversation interview will include the wisdom and experienced talent of our retired registered nurses. In this initial group of eight, is a retired Navy nurse of twenty-one(21)years, several nurses from education and private sector care with invaluable news.

For the last two(2) decades churchgoing (mosque, synagogues) have declined sharply in attendance.

Some credible research sources have confirmed a 40% drop. And we all were witness to the decline BEFORE . . . the virus invaded our

space. On the other side of the coin, communication and media has increased by 55% and growing higher. Where we go for information and to get information or reach the masses has a 'new highway' with no speed limit. This new autofocus highway is and has changed our entire way of life.

How do we begin to correct these communication channels with COVID-19, the vaccine, HIV, in Dallas County? And . . . in concert remove the word 'disproportionately affecting communities of color' . . . I ask publicly that the Governor, County Judge, Commissioners, Dr. Huang, elected politicians embrace the African American Media. And that should start right here in Dallas County.

As we march into a new decade. . . the black media is a great partner. Thank you Dr. Huang. We look forward to our next time with you.

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By Chairwoman **Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)**
House Committee on Science,
Space, & Technology
United States House of
Representatives

The week of December 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021. NDAA is an annual bill that authorizes the funding for our national defense strategy. Included in this year's NDAA is an amendment, introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Anthony Brown (MD-04) in their respective chambers, that establishes a commission to rename military installations that honor Confederate offi-

'Turning the Tide: the CBC's Role in Renaming Confederate Bases'

cials. The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) played a critical role in ushering the amendment through the House, Senate, and conference committee deliberations to be included in the final bill. In one of the most significant steps towards inclusivity that the military has taken, the CBC finds itself once again at the heart of an effort towards achieving racial equity. One such installation set to be renamed is right here in Texas – Fort Hood, which bears the name of Confederate General John Bell Hood. Fortunately, we do not have to look too far when it comes to replacement names.

Texas is unique in that it boasts an extraordinary number of heroes of color who called our state home. One such example would be Mr. Doris 'Dorie' Miller, was born and raised in my hometown of Waco, TX. Cook First Class Miller was a WWII veteran whose heroic instincts at Pearl Harbor earned him the Navy Cross and helped to save hundreds of lives aboard the *West Virginia* on December 7, 1941. Another illustration of bravery came from Messman First Class Leonard Roy Harmon, who resided in Cuero, TX – geographically situated between Austin and San Antonio, was a WWII veteran, Navy Cross recipient, and the first Black man to have

a warship named in his honor, the *USS Harmon*. These two men, along with the countless others not listed, would be excellent namesakes for military installations and would reflect the increasing diversity of our armed forces. Though the President has repeatedly expressed his intent to veto the legislation because of this amendment, I am proud that Congress will pass the NDAA with a veto-proof majority and that these bases will forevermore appropriately memorialize the contributions made by people of color. While the effects of renaming these installations may be beyond our vision, they certainly are not beyond our control.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216
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Sammie Berry
Minister

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Sunday Bible School
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Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

St. John 10:1-10

THE ONLY DOOR - CHRIST

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

I am told that the ancient sheepfold of that day still exists in many towns. In ancient Palestine, the sheepfold was a big enclosure in which shepherds would lead their sheep to find lodging for the night. The sheepfold had a large wall which kept robbers or any wild animal from harming the sheep. The shepherd would leave the sheep in the care of the porter, whose responsibility was to guard the big enclosure and protect the sheep. As the morning arises, the various shepherds would arrive at the sheepfold and call their sheep by name. Of course, the porter would identify the shepherd, who would call his sheep from among the many sheep. With

this marvelous imagery in mind, Jesus Christ makes an emphatic and tremendous claim that He came in by the door - that is, He came and presented Himself legally to Israel. He came in fulfillment of all the predicted prophecy regarding His Messiahship in the Old Testament. It is commonly agreed upon by many commentators that the sheepfold represents Israel. Therefore, in verses 1 and 2, Christ is saying that He came legally to the nation of Israel. Thus, His coming came in the precise and exact moment, for Galatians 4:4-5 says - "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." The "door" referred to in verses 1 and 2 was the only means of access into the sheepfold. In verse 3, the porter is the doorkeeper - the one who guarded the sheepfold. As the porter opens the door, the Shepherd calls His sheep, for the sheep will only respond to the voice of its Shepherd (v. 3). Do you really understand this imagery? Sheep will only respond to its Shepherd; not only that, but verse 4 brings out that sheep will follow their Shepherd. The Shepherd would guide the sheep and they will follow! The Shepherd does not follow the sheep, but the

sheep follows the Shepherd. Another genuine mark of a sheep is that they will not follow a stranger; they will only respond to the voice of the Shepherd, not strangers (v. 5). Whose voice are you following today? Genuine sheep will only respond to the authoritative voice of God. Where can we hear His voice - from His mighty word! As children of God, we cannot respond to the voice of false teachers because the Lord has given us the capacity to discern truth from error; moreover, we can detect falsehood because we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the "unction" (1 John 2:20). In short, the Holy Spirit gives us the spirit of discernment to

detect truth from error. It is awfully apparent from verse 6 that all who are not genuine sheep are not able to grasp the truth, even when it is presented clearly. In verse 7, Jesus Christ makes another "I am" statement (see St. John 6:35, 8:12). Christ identifies Himself as the "door" - the only means of access to eternal life. It is awfully clear from verse 8 that the word "all" must not be understood in an absolute sense, but in a restricted way. In speaking of Shepherds, all of the Shepherds that appeared before Christ were not thieves and robbers. It is clear that certain men like Moses and David and others would not be included in the word "all". It must be understood that in this verse that the Lord was speaking about false shepherds, such as the Scribes and Pharisees. In

verse 9, Christ repeats the "I am the door" statement as found in verse 7. Yes, the "Door" is God's only provided means of entrance into the family of God. There was only one door into the Ark that provided a safe and secure shelter for Noah's family from the flood. Likewise, there was only one door into the Tabernacle which led to the presence of Jehovah. There is only one door to the presence of the Father, for Acts 4:12 says: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." In verse 10, if any man wants to receive the abundant life that Christ only offers, he or she must accept Christ by faith - "the Door."

May God Bless!



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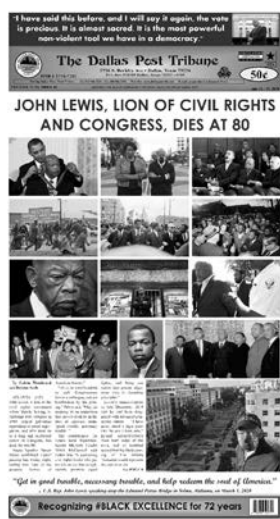


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Also available in the newspaper box at our office for 50 cents.

Governor gets vaccine, Texas hospitalizations still soaring - (Cont. Page 1)



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Continued Rice Page 1

President-Elect Joe Biden has continued to maintain a campaign promise, even exceeding his pledge for a diverse staff and cabinet. Shortly after naming a Black man to lead the Department of Defense and a Black woman to serve as head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Biden said he's appointing former U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice, a Black woman, to serve as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

"With years of experience working at senior levels in the executive branch, Ambassador Rice knows government inside and out and will carry through the President-elect's vision of a newly empowered Domestic Policy Council and turbocharge the effort to build back better," the Biden transition team wrote in a news release.

The team noted that Rice is among the nation's most senior and experienced government

leaders with the skills to harness the power of the federal government to serve the American people.

As a former member of the Cabinet, they said she also understands the challenges and opportunities of running an agency and has extensive experience working with other key members of the Biden-Harris White House team, including the heads of NSC and NEC.

Ambassador Rice's appointment comes as Biden announced key members of his administration, including Tom Vilsack as Secretary of Agriculture; Congresswoman Marcia Fudge for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Denis McDonough as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Katherine Tai, as United States Trade Representative.

The diverse and accomplished team will work around the clock to deliver immediate relief to the American people — including working families, veterans, farmers and

producers, and everyone fighting for their place in the middle class, the transition team promised in the release.

As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris expressed that the team will "bring the highest level of expertise and the bold vision necessary to help all Americans seize new opportunities and build back better."

"This dedicated and distinguished group of public servants will bring the highest level of experience, compassion, and integrity to bear, solving problems and expanding possibilities for the American people in the face of steep challenges," Biden stated.

"The roles they will take on are where the rubber meets the road — where competent and crisis-tested governance can make a meaningful difference in people's lives, enhancing the dignity, equity, security, and prosperity of the day-to-day lives of Americans.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday joined the ranks of governors receiving the COVID-19 vaccine on live television in hopes of assuring the public that the inoculations are safe.

Abbott, a Republican, said after getting the vaccine at a hospital in the state capital that federal health officials have urged governors to set an example. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey also received the first dose this week, while other governors have said they'll wait.

Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients are soaring in Texas. On Tuesday state health officials said 10,299 people were hospitalized — 290 more than the day before. This week the number of daily hospitalizations exceeded 10,000 for the first time since a deadly summer outbreak in July that saw daily hospitalizations near 11,000.

"This is the right team for this moment in history, and I know that each of these leaders will hit the ground running on day one to take on the interconnected crises families are facing today."

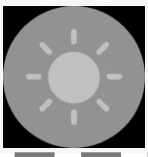
Added Harris: "Over the past few weeks, President-elect Biden and I have announced members of our administration who will help contain this pandemic, responsibly open our economy, and keep our nation safe and secure.

"The administration members we are announcing today will help us meet a range of other challenges — from helping make sure no American goes hungry to putting affordable housing within reach for all to caring for veterans and their families and advancing our ideals of opportunity and equality. These deeply experienced public servants reflect the best of our nation and will be ready to hit the ground running on day one to rebuild our country in a way that lifts up all Americans."

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

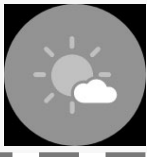
7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 24



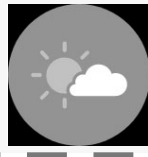
H - 57°
L - 37°

Friday, Dec. 25



H - 59°
L - 42°

Saturday, Dec. 26



H - 62°
L - 52°

Sunday, Dec. 27



H - 63°
L - 43°

Monday, Dec. 28



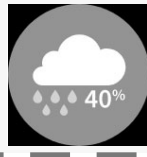
H - 53°
L - 41°

Tuesday, Dec. 29



H - 56°
L - 44°

Wednesday, Dec. 30



H - 54°
L - 39°

No. 7 Baylor women 136-43 over NSU for 60th home win in row

WACO, Texas (AP) — Kim Mulkey knows No. 7 Baylor needs to play these early-season non-conference games, even though practices for the Lady Bears are often much more competitive.

NaLyssa Smith matched a career high with 30 points on 12-of-15 shooting to lead six players scoring in double figures in a 136-43 win over Northwestern State on Friday, extending the Lady Bears' national-best home winning streak to 60 games. They came up four points short of their school scoring record set four years ago.

"Sometimes practicing with each other, we get used to playing with each other," Smith said. "So playing other teams helps us find a feel for each other and build team chemistry. So I feel like playing games against other teams is just, it's a



Baylor forward NaLyssa Smith, left, reacts to her score against Northwestern with teammate guard Moon Ursin, right, in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, in Waco, Texas. (Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune-Herald via AP)

good experience for us." Hannah Gusters, a 6-foot-5 freshman center, added 22 points on 11-of-14 shooting and Queen

Egbo 21 points on 10-of-15 shooting for the Lady Bears (6-1), who shot 67.9% overall (57 of 84). DiJonnia Carrington added

13 points while Jordyn Oliver and Sarah Andrews each had 12. Oliver also had 10 assists, while Caitlin Bickle had

11 rebounds.

All 11 Baylor players scored and had rebounds, including UCLA transfer Jaden Owens (three points, one rebound in 10 minutes) in the sophomore guard's debut for the Lady Bears. Gusters was the only player who didn't have one of their single-game record 45 assists.

The game was the makeup of one scheduled Nov. 27 before Northwestern State had to postpone because of COVID-19 issues. It gave the Lady Bears games on back-to-back days before an extended Christmas break, but Mulkey said it was important to squeeze it in even though that meant four home games in a six-day span.

"Ideally, you don't want to do that, but we just need to play (games)," Mulkey said. "Yes, practice, there's a

lot of teaching, and probably in practice there's no question that when we go against each other it's much more competitive, it gets heated. And yet at the same time, sometimes we just get tired of that and we just need to play games."

Tristen Washington had 12 points on four 3s to lead Northwestern State (0-3). The Lady Demons made 11 3s but were only 4-of-19 shooting (21.1%) inside the arc, with their first made two-point basket not coming until more than 2 minutes into the second half.

Baylor scored the game's first six points on three field goals in the opening minute, and already had a 23-point lead after the first quarter. The Lady Bears led 74-21 at halftime, and had 102 points after a 3-pointer by Carrington just before the end of the third quarter.

Turnaround on turnovers helps Cowboys keep faint hopes alive

By SCHUYLER DIXON



Dallas Cowboys' Andy Dalton (14), Dalton Schultz, rear, celebrate a touchdown run by Tony Pollard (20) in the second half of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020. (AP Photo/Michael Ainsworth)

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys, who were last in the NFL in turnover margin for almost half the season, are plus-7 the past two games.

They also have consecutive wins for the first time this season. Coincidence? Probably not.

Most of the turnovers came early, too. Two in the first quarter against San Francisco turned into a

two-touchdown lead on the way to a 41-33 victory Sunday. Cincinnati lost three fumbles in the first quarter of Dallas' 30-7 win a week earlier.

"To get it early definitely you can see that it brought a lot of energy to our sideline," coach Mike McCarthy said. "That's two weeks in a row we've been able to go out with back-to-back series and have a turnover to start the

game. It'd be great if we can keep that up."

The much-maligned defense is still giving up yards — San Francisco's second-highest total of the season at 458 — but the group under new defensive coordinator Mike Nolan is finally making plays as well.

Safety Donovan Wilson made a nice break on a throw from Nick Mullens to set up the go-ahead field goal early in the fourth quarter. Anthony Brown had the second interception with the Niners driving on the next possession.

"We always knew we were capable," cornerback Jourdan Lewis said. "We just found the ingredients these last few games."

And those ingredients are?

"Just going out there every day practicing, trying to get the ball, just flying to the ball and just understanding that we're still in this thing," Lewis said.

After passenger dies on United Airlines flight, man who helped him has COVID symptoms

By Scripps National

United Airlines is reportedly working with the CDC to alert passengers onboard a flight last week from Orlando to Los Angeles they may have been exposed to COVID-19 after a passenger had an in-flight medical emergency and later died. A man who tried to help the man is now reporting symptoms.

United says a man onboard flight UA591 on December 14 had coronavirus-like symptoms, including loss of taste and smell, according to statements his wife made, before suffering a medical emergency onboard.

A nurse and EMT began CPR on the passenger as the flight was diverted to New Orleans to get the man help.

When the plane landed, they believed the man's emergency was cardiac arrest, and they allowed passengers to "take a later flight or con-

tinue on with their travel plans," the airline told [NBC News](#).

The airline now says they were contacted by the CDC and "are sharing requested information with the agency so they can work with local health officials to conduct outreach to any customer the CDC believes may be at risk for possible exposure or infection," a representative for the airline told [CBS LA](#).

The man who says he performed CPR on the passenger, Tony Aldapa, says he is now experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Aldapa said he used his EMT training to try and help the man.

"There were three of us that were essentially tag-teaming doing chest compressions, probably about 45 minutes," Aldapa told CBS LA.

"I made the decision to attempt to save the passenger's life and along with 2 others performed

CPR for close to an hour until we landed. And continued to help the firefighters when they came onboard," Aldapa tweeted. "I knew the risks involved in performing CPR on someone that potentially has COVID but I made the choice to do so anyways. I spoke with the passenger's wife about his medical history and she never mentioned he was positive, she said he was scheduled to have a test done in LA."

Aldapa says he has "become symptomatic" and over the weekend was waiting for the results of a second COVID-19 test.

The passenger had filled out a questionnaire before boarding the flight, which asked about testing positive for COVID-19 and having symptoms. It is now apparent the man "wrongly acknowledged this requirement," the airline [said](#).

Man dressed as Santa rescued from power lines in California



(California Highway Patrol via AP)

RIO LINDA, Calif. (AP) — Santa found himself a little more tied up than usual this time of year.

A Northern California man impersonating Santa Claus and flying on a powered parachute was rescued Sunday after he became entangled in power lines, authorities said.

The incident happened shortly after the man took off near a school in Rio Linda to deliver candy canes to children in his community. He

flew into a maze of power lines and wound up suspended in them, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman told KCRA-TV.

The man, who wasn't identified, was not injured.

Video from the rescue shows the red-white-and-blue aircraft dangling overhead as Santa sat fastened to the pilot seat.

Neighbors watched from the ground as crews worked.

Colleen Bousliman, who

lives nearby, said the pilot flies overhead often.

"He flies just around so people can see and flies around people's houses," she said. "This was the first time he was in his Santa suit."

Power was shut off during the rescue to about 200 customers in the Rio Linda area, according to Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District spokesman Chris Vestal.

"It's unfortunate, but we all need to remember that

there's still a lot of good out in the world, there are people doing good things and to look at the brightness of the holiday season," Vestal said.

He said it didn't take long to rescue the costumed pilot and lower him to safety.

"W/o a scratch & full of good cheer we made sure Old St. Nick will use his reindeer when he sees you later this year," the fire department said in a tweet after the incident.

Continued **Relief** Page 1

whether we help families or not. It's about whether we help small businesses and restaurants or not. It's about whether we boost (food stamp) benefits and strengthen anti-hunger programs or not. And whether we help those dealing with a job loss or not. To me, this is not a tough call."

Congress also approved a one-week stopgap spending bill to avert a partial government shutdown at midnight and give Trump time to sign the sweeping legislation.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, a key negotiator, said on CNBC Monday morning that the direct payments would begin arriving in bank accounts next week.

Democrats promised more aid to come once Biden takes office, but Republicans were signaling a wait-and-see approach.

The measure would fund the government through September, wrapping a year's worth of action on annual spending bills into a single package that never saw Senate committee or floor debate.

The legislation followed a tortured path. Democrats played hardball up until Election Day, amid accusations that they wanted to deny Trump a victory that might help him prevail. Democrats denied that, but their demands indeed became more realistic after Trump's loss and as Biden made it clear that half a loaf was better than none.

The final bill bore ample resemblance to a \$1 trillion package put together by Senate Republican leaders in July, a proposal that at the time was scoffed at by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as way too little.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., took a victory lap after blocking far more ambitious legislation from reaching the Senate floor. He said the pragmatic approach of Biden was key.

"The president-elect suggesting that we needed to do something now was helpful in moving both Pelosi and Schumer into a better place," McConnell told The Associated Press. "My view about what comes next is let's take a look at it. Happy to evaluate that based upon the needs that we confront in February and March."

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, D-Calif., came to the Senate to cast her vote for the bill. "The American people need relief and I want to be able to do what I can to help them," she said.

On direct payments, the bill provides \$600 to individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 to couples making up to \$150,000, with payments phased out for higher incomes. An additional \$600 payment will be made per dependent child, similar to the last round of relief payments in the spring.

"I expect we'll get the money out by the beginning of next week — \$2,400 for a family of four," Mnuchin said. "So

much needed relief just in time for the holidays."

The \$300 per week bonus jobless benefit was half the supplemental federal unemployment benefit provided under the \$1.8 billion CARES Act in March. That more generous benefit and would be limited to 11 weeks instead of 16 weeks. The direct \$600 stimulus payment was also half the March payment.

The CARES Act was credited with keeping the economy from falling off a cliff during widespread lockdowns in the spring, but Republicans controlling the Senate cited debt concerns in pushing against Democratic demands.

"Anyone who thinks this bill is enough hasn't heard the desperation in the voices of their constituents, has not looked into the eyes of the small-business owner on the brink of ruin," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, a lifelong New Yorker who pushed hard for money helping his city's transit systems, renters, theaters and restaurants.

Progress came after a bipartisan group of pragmatists and moderates devised a \$908 billion plan that built a middle-ground position that the top four leaders of Congress — the GOP and Democratic leaders of both the House and Senate — used as the basis for their talks. The lawmakers urged leaders on both sides to back off of hard-line positions.

"Republicans were

most intent on reviving the Paycheck Protection Program with \$284 billion, which would cover a second round of PPP grants to especially hard-hit businesses. Democrats won set-asides for low-income and minority communities.

The sweeping bill also contains \$25 billion in rental assistance, \$15 billion for theaters and other live venues, \$82 billion for local schools, colleges and universities, and \$10 billion for child care.

Six GOP senators voted against the bill: Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee of Utah and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin.

The governmentwide appropriations bill was likely to provide a last \$1.4 billion installment for Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall as a condition of winning his signature. The Pentagon would receive \$696 billion. Democrats and Senate Republicans prevailed in a bid to use bookkeeping maneuvers to squeeze \$12.5 billion more for domestic programs into the legislation.

The bill was an engine to carry much of Capitol Hill's unfinished business, including an almost 400-page water resources bill that targets \$10 billion for 46 Army Corps of Engineers flood control, environmental and coastal protection projects. Another addition would extend a batch of soon-to-expire tax breaks, such as one for craft brewers, wineries and distillers.

Dominion worker sues Trump campaign and conservative media

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — An election systems worker driven into hiding by death threats has filed a defamation lawsuit against President Donald Trump's campaign, two of its lawyers and some conservative media figures and outlets.

Eric Coomer, security director at the Colorado-based Dominion Voting Systems, said he wants his life back after being named in false charges as a key actor in "rigging" the election for President-elect Joe Biden. There has been no evidence that the election was rigged.

His lawsuit, filed Friday in district court in Denver County, Colorado, names the Trump campaign, lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell, conservative columnist Michelle Malkin, the website Gateway Pundit, Colorado conservative activist Joseph Oltmann, and conservative media Newsmax and One America News Network.

"I have been thrust into the public spotlight by people with political and financial agendas but, at heart, I am a private person," Coomer said in a statement.

"While I intend to do everything I can to recapture my prior lifestyle, I have few illusions in this regard," he said. "And so, today, I put my trust in the legal process, which has already exposed the truth of the 2020 presidential election."

Dominion, which provided vote-counting equipment to several states, has denied accusations that it switched Trump votes in Biden's favor, and no evidence has emerged to back those charges up.

Dominion and another voting technology company, Smartmatic, have begun to fight back against being named in baseless conspiracy theories. After legal threats were made, Fox News Channel and Newsmax in recent days have aired retractions of some claims made on their networks.

There was no immediate comment from those named in the lawsuit.

His lawyers said Coomer has become "the face of the false claims." Coomer's name first got public exposure in a podcast by Oltmann, who claimed to have heard a strategy call of Antifa activists. When the prospect of a Trump victory was brought up, Oltmann said a man identified as "Eric from

Dominion" supposedly said "don't worry about the election, Trump is not going to win. I made ... sure of that," adding an expletive.

In an opinion piece written for the Denver Post, Coomer wrote that he has no connections to Antifa, was never on any call and the idea that there is some recording of him is "wholly fabricated."

The fact-checking website Snopes said Oltmann hasn't cooperated in any attempts to verify his claims.

Oltmann also claimed that Coomer made anti-Trump comments on Facebook. The lawsuit acknowledged that Coomer made comments critical of the president on his private Facebook page; he now says his page is inactive.

Oltmann's charges spread after he was interviewed by Malkin and Gateway Pundit. Eric Trump tweeted about them. OANN, and its White House correspondent Chanel Rion, reported on them. Powell, misidentifying Coomer as working for Smartmatic, said at a news conference that Coomer's "social media is filled with hatred" for Trump, and she later repeated her charges in a Newsmax interview.

Giuliani, at a news conference, called Coomer "a vicious, vicious man. He wrote horrible things about the president ... He is completely warped," according to the lawsuit.

Fox News Channel, another network popular with Trump supporters, is not being sued and Coomer actually uses Fox's Tucker Carlson to buttress his case. The lawsuit notes a scheduled Powell appearance on Carlson's show did not happen after she could not provide evidence for her charges.

Coomer told The Associated Press earlier this month that right-wing websites posted his photo, home address and details about his family. Death threats began almost immediately.

He said his father, an Army veteran, received a handwritten letter asking, "How does it feel to have a traitor for a son?"

"It's terrifying," Coomer said. "I've worked in international elections in all sorts of post-conflict countries where election violence is real and people are getting killed over it. And I feel that we're on the verge of that."



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