

# Biden's pets coming to White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major Biden is getting an early start in the spotlight as a presidential pet after a play date ended with his owner, President-elect Joe Biden, suffering a broken foot. As if that weren't enough for one weekend, it was also confirmed that Major will have to share the White House with, of all things, a cat. It'll get better, Major. In a few weeks, Major, fellow German shepherd Champ and the TBD feline are expected to make the move to the White House. Presidential pets provide their owners with a source of comfort, entertainment, occasional drama and generally good PR.

The arrival of the Biden pets will also mark the next chapter in a long history of pets residing at the White House after a four-year hiatus during the Trump administration. "Pets have always played an important role in the White House throughout the decades," said Jennifer Pickens, an author who studies White House traditions. "It not only provides companionship to the president and their family, but I believe it also humanizes and softens their political image." Having a dog or cat will give some pet-loving constituents a connection with the president, added Tom Whalen, a presidential

historian at Boston University. "When a president, the leader of the country, the leader of the free world really, is seen with a dog or a cat, you know, basically there is a bond that they have with their public, whether they're Republican or Democrat," Whalen said. President Theodore Roosevelt had Skip, who is described by the White House Historical Association as a "short-legged Black and Tan mongrel terrier brought home from a Colorado bear hunt." Warren G. Harding had Laddie Boy, who sat in on meetings and had his own Cabinet chair. And President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had his beloved terrier Fala.

# New Leash on Life open by appointment only

State Journal staff report

Due to coronavirus precautions, New Leash on Life, at 415 W. Broadway, will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays by appointment only. "The appointments are needed to limit the number of shoppers in the store to four at all times," the Franklin County Humane Society, which runs the shop, said in a press release. Shoppers must call 502-352-2229 to reserve a one-hour visit. New Leash on Life is also collecting food and supplies as part of its Angel Tree program and donations for the new Franklin County Humane Society animal shelter. All sales at the thrift shop benefit the humane society.



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**GIVING BACK:** Nora Green, left, and Charlie Pearl, center, with the Frankfort Interfaith Council, stand in front of the ACCESS Soup Kitchen and Men's Shelter on West Second Street earlier this week with James Barnett, right, executive director of the shelter and soup kitchen in Frankfort. Nora is the wife of council chairman Rich Green, who took the photo. The Greens and Pearl made their donations and were getting ready to do the 25th annual Thanksgiving Walk of Awareness, a major fundraiser for the soup kitchen and shelter. Other interfaith council members will also walk and financially support the shelter sometime during the holiday season. Hundreds of walkers usually participate in the annual 2.3-mile walk on Thanksgiving morning. But because of the pandemic, the 2020 event was changed to a virtual walk. For more information on how you can donate to ACCESS Soup Kitchen and Men's Shelter, call the office at 502-223-5179 or email Admin@accesssoupkitchen.com

# Most weekend shoppers checked out online

NEW YORK (AP) — The viral pandemic is accelerating a transformation of America's holiday shopping season. Few people showed up at the mall this weekend, with millions of pandemic-wary shoppers staying home to shop online. The result? Overall holiday sales are projected to rise a slight 0.9% in November and December — and even that modest gain will be due to an explosion in online shopping, according to the research firm eMarketer. It expects online sales to jump nearly 36%, while sales at physical stores fall 4.7%. The online rush was on fully display Monday, known as Cyber Monday, a day of sales promoted by retailers back in 2005. Once the final numbers are tallied up, this year's Cyber Monday is projected to become the biggest online shopping day in American history. Here's how this holiday shopping season is shaping up: Black Friday, typically the frenzied kick-off of the holiday shopping season, was eerily quiet this year. Health officials had warned shoppers to stay home, and stores followed suit by putting their best deals online to discour-

age crowds. Half as many people shopped inside stores this Black Friday than last year, according to retail data company Sensormatic Solutions. "Black Friday was really Bleak Friday," says David Bassuk, a member of the retail practice at the consulting firm AlixPartners. Online was a decidedly different story. Sales hit a record \$9 billion on Black Friday — up a sharp 22% from last year, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping. Even though shoppers had access to weeks of online deals, many held out for bargains that they could get only on Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving. Cyber Monday is expected to generate as much as \$12.7 billion in sales — a 35% jump from a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics. A big unknown hanging over the shopping season is this: Will retailers and shippers be able to deliver all those online orders in time for Christmas? Retailers have been warning shoppers to buy early this year, because shippers may become overwhelmed.

# SCOTUS skeptical of Trump census plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court sounded skeptical Monday that President Donald Trump could categorically exclude people living in the country illegally from the population count used to allot seats among the states in the House of Representatives. But it also appeared possible that the justices could avoid a final ruling on the issue until they know how broadly the Trump administration acts in its final days in office and whether the division of House seats is affected. No president has tried to do what Trump outlined in a memo in July — remove millions of non-citizens from the once-a-decade head count of the U.S. population that determines how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives, as well as the allocation of some federal funding. The court, meeting by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic, heard arguments in its

second case in two years related to the 2020 census and immigrants. The census already is facing novel questions over deadlines, data quality and politics, including whether the incoming Biden administration would do anything to try to reverse decisions made under Trump. One possibility outlined by acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall, Trump's top Supreme Court lawyer, is that Trump might try to leave out of the count people who are in immigration detention or those who have been ordered to leave the country. But under questioning from Justice Elena Kagan, Wall would not rule out larger categories of immigrants, including those who have protection from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programs. "We can't be certain at this point, and we don't know what the president will decide to do with respect to that," Wall said. Justice Amy Coney Bar-

rett was among several members of the court who said the administration's argument for broad discretion in deciding whom to exclude is troublesome because "a lot of the historical evidence and longstanding practice really cuts against your position." The court decided to hear the case on a fast track, based on the administration's plea for a decision by early January, when Trump is required by law to transmit census numbers to Congress. The Census Bureau is supposed to send the data to Trump by Dec. 31. But Wall told the court Monday, "We are not currently on pace to send the report to the president by the year-end statutory deadline." He said census officials told him they hope some data is available in January. A delay of three weeks would mean the Census Bureau would be turning in the numbers to a new president. President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20.



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