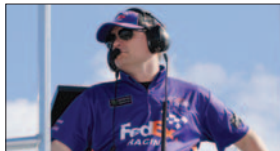


AUTO RACING

Crew chiefs feel the heat to be perfect in NASCAR finale

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2020 ELECTION

BATTLEGROUND SHOWDOWN



Presidency hinges on tight races

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fate of the United States presidency hung in the balance Wednesday as Democratic challenger Joe Biden picked up a win in Wisconsin while fighting President Donald Trump in other battleground states that could prove crucial in determining

who wins the White House.

Neither candidate cleared the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, and the margins were tight in several other battleground states. Top advisers for both Biden and Trump on Wednesday morning expressed confidence

SEE SHOWDOWN ON PAGE 6

Senate
Republicans poised to hang on to control

Page 7

House
Democrats appear set to lead with shrunk majority

Page 7

Ballot measures
Push to relax drug laws gains big wins on state ballots

Page 9

Above: Nonpartisan poll election challenger Richard Saad observes election inspectors as they begin to count ballots on Election Day at City Hall in Warren, Mich., on Tuesday.

DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

BUSINESS/WEATHER

2 mall operators file for bankruptcy amid virus

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two mall operators filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, hurt by the coronavirus pandemic that has forced their tenants to permanently close stores or not pay rent.

CBL and Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, said their malls will remain open as they go through the bankruptcy process.

Even before the virus, malls struggled to attract shoppers who are increasingly shopping online or elsewhere. But the pandemic

forced many of them to temporarily close for months. Mall tenants are also stressed. Some are going bankrupt and closing stores, such as department store chain J.C. Penney Co.

The two bankruptcies come just before the crucial holiday shopping season. With reported coronavirus cases rising, malls will need to limit crowds during what is traditionally their busiest times of the year. At the same time, big retailers that didn't have to close, such as Amazon, Target

and Walmart, are benefiting as they push people to shop online.

CBL, which operates 107 malls, said more than 30 of its tenants have filed for bankruptcy protection this year. Based in Chattanooga, Tenn., CBL operates malls across the U.S., including EastGate Mall in Cincinnati and West Court Center in St. Louis.

PREIT, based in Philadelphia, has more than 20 properties, including Cherry Hill Mall in Cherry Hill, N.J., and Viewmont Mall in Scranton, Pa.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9123
Euro costs (Nov. 5)	\$1.14	Thailand (Baht)		31.02
Dollar buys (Nov. 5)	€0.8316	Turkey (Lira)		\$4.607
British pound (Nov. 5)	\$1.27	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (Nov. 5)	102.00	Commercial rates		
South Korean won (Nov. 5)	1,109.00	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
		British pound	\$1.2991	
		Canada (Dollar)	1.3176	
		China (Yuan)	6.6395	
		Denmark (Krone)	6.3995	
		Egypt (Pound)	15.1209	
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1709/0.8540	
		Hungary (Forint)	7.5946	
		India (Rupee)	74.56	
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4086	
		Japan (Yen)	0.3062	
		Kuwait (Dinar)	3.3538	
		Norway (Krone)	9.3538	
		Philippines (Peso)	48.35	
		Poland (Zloty)	3.89	
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507	
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3587	
		South Korea (Won)	1,133.79	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.65

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

New Air Force 'G-suit' modified for women

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force's anti-gravity suit is designed for an elite group of airmen and astronauts who fly at super, blood-blocking speeds.

But the "G-suit" donned by Air Force aviators since going into use in 2001 was designed to fit a standard male body type, and its shortcomings have become clear with the growing number of female fighter pilots who now wear one.

Late last month, five female fighter pilots tested a modified version of the so-called advanced technology anti-gravity suit that is designed to better fit women or any male pilot with an atypical build, the Air Force said in a news release Tuesday.

G-suits, sometimes called anti-G suits, are designed to prevent a pilot from blacking out during high levels of acceleration force that cause blood to pool in the lower part of the body, leaving the brain starved of blood and oxygen. Inflatable bladders push blood toward the torso and exert pressure on the lungs.

The new version of the suit has been modified in two major ways. First, it has wider lacing panels in the waist, thigh and calf that allow the user to adjust it to varying body proportions.

Second, the suit comes with an option for a tailored, or "darted," waist that does not interfere with a female bladder that inflates during maneuvers with high G-force, the Air Force said.

"In the past, some pilots with a shorter torso have had issues with (G-suits) that were too large riding up and causing bruising on the rib cages, while pilots who



SAVANAH BRAY/U.S. Air Force

First Lt. Elizabeth Pennell, a T-38 pilot, steps into an F-16D Fighting Falcon at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., while testing a modified version of the Air Force's G-suit in late October.

are hard-to-fit may have had one size that fits through the legs, but need a smaller size in the waist," Charles Cruze, a human systems division engineer with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, said in the news release. "Now, the waist can be darted up to 3.75 inches, allowing for a more custom and accurate fit, preventing both of those issues."

Congress gave women the green light to pilot combat aircraft in December 1991, and in April 1993, then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin lifted the Pentagon's prohibition on women taking combat aircraft assignments.

According to the Air Force's Personnel Center statistics, the service has just over 800 female pilots, with another roughly 580

women serving as navigators or air battle managers.

The female pilots testing the modified suits flew almost 20 sorties Oct. 26-30 in two-seat F-16D fighter jets out of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. They conducted low- and high-G basic fighter maneuvers and specific movements intended to evaluate the modifications, the Air Force said.

A pilot wearing a standard G-suit occupied the jet's second seat to ensure safety during the testing, the Air Force said.

The test pilots also evaluated the suits during regular activities such as sitting, standing, walking and climbing into and out of the aircraft, the Air Force said.

Test pilot Capt. Brittany Trimble, an F-16 Fighting Falcon instructor pilot, found the darted waist a noticeable improvement.

"I honestly didn't expect to notice much of a difference because I'd never noticed significant issues with the (G-suit) sizes before, but I was pleasantly surprised that these upgrades increased (the suit's) functionality significantly under G," she said in the news release.

"As more women strap into fast jets to get the mission done, I think the Air Force is heading in the right direction," Trimble said.

The modified G-suit could be available to pilots within one to two years based on the Air Force's current acquisition protocol, Sharon Rogers, the lead test engineer, said in the news release.

"These tests are important because they will ultimately increase the lethality of those who no longer have their mask slip down during a sortie, their G-suit crumple under their waist, or the extra fabric of a too big anti-exposure suit get in the way of their movements in the jet," Trimble said. "These don't seem like big issues, but everything counts in the air, and having gear that fits and works as intended should be the standard."

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Navy authorizes new, optional rank tab

By THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

Sailors may now wear an easier-to-recognize rank insignia on their camouflage working uniforms, according to a recent Navy administrative change.

The slip-on rank insignia is the same one that sailors wear on the cold weather parka and can be easily swapped between multiple uniforms.

"Your concerns have been heard," states a post on the My Navy HR Facebook page. "The Navy has now authorized

a new and more recognizable rank tab for optional wear."

The change is effective immediately and authorized for enlisted and officer ranks from petty officer to admiral, according to a naval administrative message Friday.

"I'm pro-new tab," an Okinawa-based sailor, Petty Officer 1st Class David Krigbaum, 37, said via Facebook on Wednesday. "The black tab against the green camo background is a little jarring, but I like the practicality of it. Now we just need a bigger senior chief star that can be

seen from a distance."

The new rank tab is an optional item, but sailors will be required to purchase the camouflage insignia and wear it in a tactical environment or training scenario.

Uniform policy updates help retain sailors and result from multiple sources of feedback, according to the Navy message, NAVADMIN 292/20.

To read the Navy message, visit www.public.navy.mil.

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U.S. Navy

Sailors may now wear an easier-to-recognize rank insignia on their camouflage working uniforms, according to a recent Navy administrative change.

US service member accused of assaulting two South Korean men

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. service member who allegedly sprayed two South Korean men with a fire extinguisher Sunday faces a charge of "special violence" and a maximum five years in prison, according to South Korean police.

The service member, whom police did not identify as com-

mon practice, wielded the extinguisher at 5:23 a.m. on two men in their 20s waiting for a taxi in a popular area of Seoul near Hongik University, according to the criminal division director at the Mapo police station.

The victims did not require medical attention, the police spokesman said.

Police arrested the service member at the scene, but not

before he attempted to flee, the spokesman said. He said the service member was intoxicated at the time.

Police turned the service member over to U.S. military authorities, saying they will call him back later for questioning.

U.S. Forces Korea in a statement emailed to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday said it is cooperating with the South Korean Police,

which has jurisdiction in the case.

"As this is an ongoing investigation, we will not provide any comments or statements until the investigation is complete," the statement added.

The police spokesman said the service member is suspected of committing "special violence," which is defined as a crime committed through the threat of col-

lective force or by carrying a dangerous weapon.

A conviction carries up to five years imprisonment, or a fine not exceeding 10 million won, or roughly \$9,000, according to the National Law Information Center website.

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PACIFIC

Navy bans sailors based in Yokosuka from 2 local bars

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Two local bars are now off-limits to U.S. sailors — one for serving underage drinkers and another for undermining measures the Navy put in place to curb the coronavirus spread.

Capt. Rich Jarrett wrote in a pair of memos that Manila Vibe Resto Bar and Music Lounge and Sasha Latin Resto Bar, both in the city of Yokosuka's Honcho bar district, are officially off-limits to those under his command.

U.S. personnel, including sailors, civilian employees, contractors and family members, are allowed to eat indoors at restaurants that serve alcohol. However, bars and izakayas — Japanese establishments that serve alcohol and appetizers — are banned under public health measures imposed by the U.S. military when the coronavirus pandemic started to unfold.

Jarrett on Friday barred sailors from Manila Vibe Resto Bar and Music Lounge, which "operates under the guise of a restaurant while continuing, in fact, to be a bar and lounge," he said in an all-hands memo Friday.

Manila Vibe changed its branding in early October to "Manila Vibe Restaurant," according to its Facebook page. Photos posted on the site appear to show handwritten sticky notes with the word "restaurant" placed on the bar's menus that previously read

"Resto Bar and Music Lounge."

"These actions violate the health protection measures I have put in place to guard against the continued outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic," Jarrett said in the memo, referring to the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The bar also declined shore patrol and Japanese police requests to enter to investigate a customer, base spokesman Randall Baucom said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

Manila Vibe remained licensed with the city under its original name as of Tuesday, according to Yokosuka City Hall. A phone number listed for the bar in city records was unreachable Wednesday.

Jarrett also banned sailors from Sasha Latin Resto Bar on Monday for "serving alcohol to underage service members and refusing entry to members of the shore patrol acting in their official capacity," according to a memo issued Monday.

The incident happened early Saturday, Baucom said. He declined to release further information, citing an ongoing investigation regarding possible criminal charges.

Any change in name or management of the banned bars "will not necessarily revoke" the ban, and Japanese police have been notified that the bars are off limits to U.S. service members, according to Jarrett's memos.

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South Korean military captures border crosser

Stars and Stripes

South Korea's military captured a North Korean man who crossed the border Wednesday, according to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Our troops tracked down an unidentified person caught by our monitoring equipment in a front-line area in the east of the country, and located his whereabouts at about 9:50 this morning," said a text message from the joint chiefs' public affairs office.

South Korean authorities are investigating the details behind the man's entry into the South, and his motivation, according to the joint chiefs.

North Korean troops have thus far made no unusual movements, the message said.

The South Koreans issued an alert Wednesday morning after

detecting signs of infiltration near the border with North Korea.

"An unidentified individual was detected by the military's surveillance equipment near the border ... and the military issued an anti-infiltration alert for the regions," the Yonhap news agency in South Korea reported, citing the nation's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The South's Korea-focused NK News website tweeted that the signs of infiltration were in the eastern border area. A spokeswoman for the area told Stars and Stripes the incident took place near the Goseong Unification Observatory.

The South's Ministry of National Defense told journalists that South Korean troops are conducting an operation in the area, according to Yonhap.

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Japan Self-Defense Forces

U.S. Marines and Japanese troops team up for an amphibious assault on Gajajima, Japan, during the Keen Sword exercise Sunday.

Descendant of famed singer leads Marines in Keen Sword exercise

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A Marine who says he is the great-grandnephew of country music legend Johnny Cash recently led a force that stormed an island alongside troops from Japan's new amphibious brigade.

One hundred and fifty Marines participating in the 11-day Keen Sword exercise launched Sunday in small boats from the dock landing ship USS Ashland to Gajajima, an island about 270 miles northeast of Okinawa. There, they linked up with 100 Japanese troops and a small contingent of Marines who had arrived two days earlier in CH-47 Chinook helicopters and MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft.

The Marines — from the Hawaii-based 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment — were led by 1st Lt. Justice Cash, 21, of Memphis, Tenn.

"With amphibious operations, imagery can only tell you so much and the lay of the land is completely different," the young officer told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Wednesday. His famous relative, a former airman, was one of country music's biggest stars, responsible for hits like "I Walk the Line" and "Ring of Fire."

There wasn't time for singing Sunday as Cash, whose personal favorites include "A Boy Named Sue" and "I Still Miss Someone," led his Marines to Gajajima in small boats.

The Marines had to navigate shallow coastal water to get to shore. Once they were on dry land, they found themselves slogging across uneven terrain through dense jungle, Cash said.

"Most of us had never experienced something quite like that before," he said.

The platoon, which has been on Okinawa since June as part of the unit deployment program, has practiced amphibious operations before but this was the first time working alongside their Japanese allies, Cash said.

The Devil Dogs' World War II island-hopping exploits were in the back of the modern-day Marines'

minds during the training, he added.

"A lot of the Marines talked about the last time someone did something like this [in a real-world operation] was in World War II," Cash said.

Keen Sword, which ends Thursday, involves approximately 9,000 U.S. service members from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force. It includes 37,000 Japanese personnel, along with 20 ships and 170 aircraft.

In comments from the deck of the JS Kaga helicopter destroyer to kick off the exercise on Oct. 26, U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider talked about the troops' ability to deploy rapidly to defend remote Japanese-administered islands in the East China Sea that are also claimed by Taiwan and China.

The Senkaku islands are surrounded by natural resources including fish, oil and gas.

Training on Gajajima over two days gave the Marines confidence that they could work with their Japanese allies on future amphibious operations, Cash said.

"Any island that we are thinking about we should have a good deal of success working with the Japanese," he said.

The Japanese amphibious troops looked like they had been capturing islands for some time, Cash added. "Seeing their structure and how they conduct themselves, it was really impressive and gave us confidence going forward," he said. "We knew we can work with these guys."

The platoon focused on infantry tactics but there are personnel involved in Keen Sword focused on multi-domain operations, Cash said. Such operations encompass things such as cyberspace and space operations.

The Japanese troops' camouflage impressed Marine Staff Sgt. Andrew Clermont, 27.

"Their gear was on par with our gear," he said. "Their camouflage made them look like they were part of the island."

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Airman found dead in his Osan Air Base quarters

Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — A service member from New Jersey was found dead Monday in his quarters on this air base south of Seoul, the Air Force said

Wednesday.

Senior Airman Richard Samaroo, 21, of North Brunswick, N.J., was found unresponsive at approximately 12:25 p.m., according to a statement from the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan. His death

is under investigation, the wing stated.

Samaroo, an electrical power production technician, served in the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron and had been stationed at Osan since May, according to the wing.

WAR/MILITARY

US-trained Iraqi forces nab suspected ISIS recruiter

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service raid in Fallujah that captured a suspected Islamic State child recruitment ringleader without firing a shot last week was one of many successful recent Iraqi operations, coalition officials said.

The U.S.-trained and equipped CTS still frequently checks its intelligence with the coalition and conducts missions alongside foreign troops, Lt. Gen. Abdul Wahab al-Saadi, its commander, said Monday. But he and U.S. officials said last week's raid was one of scores the Iraqis mounted on their own in the past five months.

"There was no coalition involvement in this operation," said Army Capt. Erica Mitchell, a spokesperson for the Special Operations Advisory Group in Iraq, who provided data on CTS's unilateral operations to Stars and Stripes.

But while Iraqi forces have grown more capable, they still need international help to keep pressure on ISIS and prevent its resurgence, the Pentagon's lead Inspector General said in its quar-

terly report to Congress on Tuesday, citing the coalition and U.S. Central Command.

The Operation Inherent Resolve coalition has in recent months shifted largely to an advisory role. It has withdrawn thousands of foreign troops and handed eight bases back to the Iraqi government this year.

The number of U.S. troops in Iraq has gone from over 5,000 earlier this year to fewer than 3,000.

About 900 remain in Syria, with that number fluctuating daily "due to operational requirements," Pentagon spokesperson Cmdr. Jessica L. McNulty said Tuesday.

ISIS continues to wage what U.S. officials call a "low-level insurgency" and conditions that led to its emergence, such as poor governance and sectarian strife, "have not improved notably," the IG report said.

Yet desert surveys showing that Iraqi Sunnis remain frustrated with the country's government, the religious minority still sees ISIS in an "overwhelmingly negative" light, the Defense Intelligence Agency told the IG, citing polling from May. The Sunnis also

have "overwhelmingly positive" views of the Iraqi army, it said.

Among the Iraqi forces fighting ISIS, the black-clad CTS troops, who are often carried into battle in black Humvees, are considered some of the best trained and most free of sectarian influence. Modeled after U.S. special operations and trained by Green Berets, CTS played a vital role in the nine-month battle in 2017 to liberate Mosul, the country's second-largest city, and in fighting elsewhere since 2014.

In the past five months, official data show that CTS detained some 175 suspects and killed nearly 80 others in 151 independent operations.

"We have the capability to execute any [ground] mission," said Saadi, head of the CTS, but he said his troops still conduct many joint operations with international forces.

Saadi declined to provide many details about last week's operation against the suspected ISIS child recruiter, saying investigations were still ongoing, but he said CTS had information that the man was high on the terror group's payroll.



IRAQI DEFENSE MINISTRY/Twitter

Iraqi counterterrorism troops hold a man suspected of leading an Islamic State child recruitment ring, following a raid in Fallujah during the last week of October.

The man, whose identity was not disclosed, seemed to think several fake IDs would protect him from discovery, Saadi said, but Iraqi intelligence work led the troops to his doorstep.

"He kind of thought he was untouchable," Saadi said through a translator in a phone interview. But when CTS closed in, "he did

not resist."

CTS officials hope last week's mission will provide information needed to target other members of the child recruitment ring.

"We want to find all of the network," Saadi said.

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Athletic wear now allowed when shopping on base

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

It's now OK to wear spandex while running errands on base, apparently.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper immediately authorized physical fitness attire for wear by patrons at commissaries and military exchanges at Defense Department installations. The policy change includes service members, spouses and children.

Athletic apparel must be "clean, serviceable and in good condition, and appropriately modest," said

the memo, which was signed by Esper and addressed to senior Pentagon leadership.

Service secretaries may make exceptions to the policy for service members "based on mission requirements and the need to maintain good order and discipline," Esper said.

The memo, shared on social media sites Tuesday and first reported by Military.com, seemed to take many by surprise — mostly because they didn't know that yoga pants with T-shirts weren't allowed while shopping on base.

"Probably one of the least enforced rules ever. Been doing it

for years and didn't even know it was against the rules," said a post on Air Force Reddit.

"I bet some (senior noncommissioned officers) are crying right now. I never even knew this was a thing," said another post, referring to some NCOs' penchant for enforcing appearance regulations.

Installation commanders have long had leeway to set the dress code for their base, which may include shopping facilities.

At Ramstein Air Base in Germany, there are no restrictions on wearing athletic clothing to the commissary and exchange, a base

spokeswoman said Wednesday.

But some bases in warmer climates have been more strict.

At U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, a dress code poster on the base's official website says, "athletic clothing and swimwear are only allowed in recreation areas."

Civilians at Marine Corps bases in Hawaii, meanwhile, may wear appropriate athletic gear inside base facilities, as long as it is non-military-issued physical training gear and isn't provocative in nature or marked with obscene or derogatory slogans, pictures or words, according to a 2018 command policy.

Civilians also are not allowed to go shopping on base immediately upon completion of a workout, the 2018 policy said.

An order dating to 2010 at Camp Pendleton in California authorizes spandex only while conducting physical training "provided that the fit of such attire is not indecent or in poor taste."

Esper in the memo did not explain what prompted the policy change.

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US bases prepare for new rules as Italy decrees curfew

By NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — U.S. military bases are considering new coronavirus rules following an Italian decree that sets an overnight national curfew starting Thursday and imposes new restrictions in high-risk regions.

U.S. installments said they were waiting for the translation of the decree, signed by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte around midnight Wednesday, which mandates a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

The government will focus on restrictions in regions with the highest transmission rates, Conte said in a speech to the Italian parliament's lower house Monday.

The targeted rules include a "ban on travel to high-risk regions, national travel

limit in the evening, more distance learning, and public transport with a capacity limited to 50%," news website TheLocal.it reported Wednesday.

The country's museums and art galleries will be closed, and shopping centers will be closed on weekends, TheLocal.it reported after publishing a copy of the decree.

Italy was preparing to announce which regions would be most affected by the new rules Tuesday. Some of the largest cities already have curfews in place that the decree could extend.

Lombardy, which includes Milan, has had more than 200,000 coronavirus cases as of Sunday, far more than any region. Campania, which includes Naples and the U.S. 6th Fleet, has also seen a surge in cases.

After reviewing the decree, the Navy "may close or reduce certain services in

order to align with host-nation decrees while maintaining our overall military mission and operational effectiveness," Lt. Cmdr. Edward Early, a spokesman for Navy Region Europe, said in an email.

The military's rules generally follow those of their host country but differ in a few ways; for example, base school classrooms have remained open to all students even though Italy shifted most of its high school students to online learning. The new decree switches secondary schools completely to distance learning, along with some middle schools in high-risk zones.

Students on base don't rely on public transportation as much as Italian students, U.S. Army Garrison Italy in Vicenza said while explaining the differing policy.

Aviano Air Base, in the country's northeast, said that both the 31st Wing and school

administrators intend to keep schools open. Base personnel will be notified of other safety measures through online meetings and the Aviano App for smartphones, the Air Force said.

"Leadership is reviewing facility hours and services across Aviano (Air Base) so as to mirror our Italian partners," wing spokeswoman Julie Scott said in an email Wednesday.

USAG Italy will need "about 72 hours from the time the decree is released to publish the applicable impacts to the community," the garrison said in an email statement Wednesday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Nancy Montgomery contributed to this report.
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2020 ELECTION: WHITE HOUSE

Showdown: Race remains tight in battleground states

FROM FRONT PAGE

that they respectively had the likelier path to victory in the outstanding states.

The AP called Wisconsin for Biden after election officials in the state said all outstanding ballots had been counted, save for a few hundred in one township and an expected small number of provisional ballots.

Trump's campaign has requested a recount. Statewide recounts in Wisconsin have historically changed the vote tally by only a few hundred votes; Biden leads by 0.624 percentage point out of nearly 3.3 million ballots counted.

It was unclear when or how quickly a winner could be determined. The latest vote counts in Michigan gave Biden a small lead there, but it was still too early to call the race.

Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien said the president would formally request a Wisconsin recount, citing "irregularities in several Wisconsin counties," and the campaign filed suit in Michigan to halt counting of ballots because it contended it wasn't given "meaningful access" to observe the opening of ballots and the counting process.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of votes were still to be counted in Pennsylvania.

The margins were exceedingly tight in states across the country, with the candidates trading wins in battlegrounds. Trump picked up Florida, the largest of the swing states, while Biden flipped Arizona, a state that has reliably voted Republican in recent elections.

The unsettled presidential race came as Democrats entered election night confident not only in Biden's prospects, but also in the party's chances of taking control of the Senate. But the GOP held several seats that were considered vulnerable, including in Iowa, Texas and Kansas. Disappointed Democrats lost House seats but were expected to retain control there.

The high-stakes election was held against the backdrop of a historic pandemic that has killed more than 232,000 Americans and wiped away millions of jobs. Both candidates spent months pressing dramatically different visions for the nation's future, including on racial justice, and voters responded in huge numbers, with more than 100 million people casting votes ahead of Election Day.

Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, issued premature claims of victory and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to stop the counting. It was unclear exactly what legal action he could

try to pursue.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell discounted the president's quick claim of victory, saying it would take a while for states to conduct their vote counts. The Kentucky Republican said Wednesday that "claiming you've won the election is different from finishing the counting."

The president stayed out of the public eye but took to Twitter to suggest, without basis, that the election was being tainted by late-counted ballots. Twitter flagged a number of Trump's tweets, noting some of the information shared was "disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process."

Biden, briefly appearing in front of supporters in Delaware, urged patience, saying the election "ain't over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted."

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people."

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors met. That's set by federal law.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by Nov. 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days after the election.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf said he had "promised Penn-



EVAN VUCCA/AP

President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House, early Wednesday.

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end.

sylvanians that we would count every vote and that's what we're going to do."

Trump appeared to suggest those ballots should not be counted, and that he would fight for that outcome at the high court. But legal experts were dubious of Trump's declaration. Trump has appointed three of the high court's nine justices including, most recently, Amy Coney Barrett.

The Trump campaign on Wednesday pushed Republican donors to dig deeper into their pockets to help finance legal challenges. Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, during a donor call, spoke plainly: "The fight's not over. We're in it." Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, made

a pitch on Twitter to supporters to pitch in \$5 to help pay for a fight that could "stretch on for weeks."

Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states.

Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly suggested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges.

Trump kept several states, in-

cluding Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign. But Biden picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and Minnesota. But Florida was the biggest, fiercely contested battleground on the map, with both campaigns battling over the 29 Electoral College votes that went to Trump.

The president adopted Florida as his new home state, wooed its Latino community, particularly Cuban-Americans, and held rallies there incessantly. For his part, Biden deployed his top surrogate — former President Barack Obama — there twice in the campaign's closing days and benefitted from a \$100 million pledge in the state from Michael Bloomberg.

The momentum from early voting carried into Election Day, as an energized electorate produced long lines at polling sites throughout the country. Turnout was higher than in 2016 in numerous counties, including all of Florida, nearly every county in North Carolina and more than 100 counties in both Georgia and Texas. That tally seemed sure to increase as more counties reported their turnout figures.

Voters braved worries of the coronavirus, threats of polling place intimidation and expectations of long lines caused by changes to voting systems, but appeared undeterred as turnout appeared it would easily surpass the 139 million ballots cast four years ago.

On Wednesday, some awoke to fresh anxiety about an election undecided and what could be ahead.

"Honestly I'm just more concerned about what's gonna happen after we find out," said Deion Plan, 30, a voter in Atlanta. "I just want everything to just go back to the American way. It's the tension of what could happen, what may happen, what's going to happen after."



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to supporters as he stands on stage with his wife Jill Biden Wednesday, in Wilmington, Del.

2020 ELECTION: CONGRESS

Dems' Senate push halted, but control teeters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats had a disappointing night in the battle for Senate control, but it was too soon for Republicans to take a victory lap Wednesday, although they brushed back multiple challengers to protect their now teetering majority.

Key races in North Carolina and Michigan remained undecided, and at least one in Georgia was headed to a January runoff.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said President Donald Trump's campaign helped his GOP allies, but it's still too soon to declare victory as state election officials count ballots.

"We're waiting — whether I'm going to be the majority leader or not," McConnell said at a press conference in his home state of Kentucky.

In a delicate pushback against Trump's own premature claims of victory over Joe Biden in the presidential race, the GOP leader said, "Claiming you've won the election is different from finishing the counting."

McConnell said he felt "pretty good" about the remaining contests. He secured a seventh term in a costly campaign, fending off Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot.

Republican U.S. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine won the hardest-fought race of her career, turning back a challenge by Democrat Sara Gideon and surviving to serve a fifth term.

Collins, one of four candidates on the ballot, won a majority of first-place votes. That meant no

additional tabulation rounds were necessary under Maine's ranked choice voting system.

Gideon conceded, telling supporters on Wednesday that she called Collins and congratulated her on the win.

Election night delivered a jarring outcome for Democrats who had devised an expanded political map, eager to counter Trump and his party's grip on the Senate.

While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another — in South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Kansas and Montana, dramatically limiting Democrats' hopes to make inroads.

The races attracted an unprecedented outpouring of small-dollar donations for Democrats, from Americans apparently voting with their pocketbooks to propel long-shot campaigns.

The voters' choices will force a rethinking of Democratic Party strategy, messaging and approach in the Trump era.

"You wasted a lot of money," said White House ally Sen. Lindsey Graham in Columbia, S.C., after defeating Jamie Harrison, despite the Democrat's stunning \$100 million haul for his upstart campaign. "This is the worst return on investment in the history of American politics."

Trump loomed large over the Senate races as did Democrats' rival Joe Biden. The Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, as well as the



MATT YORK/AP

Former astronaut Mark Kelly greets voters at a polling station early Tuesday, in Phoenix. The Democratic candidate defeated Republican incumbent Sen. Martha McSally.

nation's uneasy mood all seemed to be on the ballot.

"It's time for a different approach," said Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor who unseated Republican Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado, in a live video message posted on Facebook.

Yet voters, for the most part, stuck with the status quo.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda. With Republicans now control-

ling the chamber, 53-47, three or four seats will determine party control, depending on who wins the presidency because the vice president can break a tie in the Senate.

Democrats contested seats from New England to the Deep South and the Midwest to the Mountain West, reaching deep into GOP strongholds. But by early Wednesday, the tally was not too different from before Election Day.

The Democrats' gains were in Colorado and Arizona, where former astronaut Mark Kelly beat GOP incumbent Martha McSally.

But they couldn't hold on in Alabama: Former college football coach Tommy Tuberville defeated Sen. Doug Jones.

Several battlegrounds broke for Republicans: In South Carolina, Graham survived the race of his political career against Harrison; in Texas, Sen. John Cornyn turned back former Air Force helicopter pilot MJ Hegar; in Iowa, Sen. Joni Ernst defeated Democrat Theresa Greenfield in a race seen as a toss-up; in Montana, Sen. Steve Daines routed Gov. Steve Bullock; and in Kansas, Rep. Roger Marshall prevailed over state Sen. Barbara Bollier.

The final breakdown awaited the outcome of races in Alaska, Michigan and North Carolina.

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis has struggled against Democrat Cal Cunningham, despite the married challenger's sexting scandal with a public relations strategist.

In Georgia, two seats were being contested and at least one is headed to a runoff after no candidate reached the 50% threshold to win.

Gov. Sen. Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock, a Black pastor, in the Jan. 5 runoff special election for the seat Loeffler was tapped to fill for retired Sen. Johnny Isakson.

In the other Georgia race, GOP Sen. David Perdue tried to stave off Democrat Jon Ossoff. It, too, could go to a runoff.

Dems head toward House control, but lose incumbents

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Disappointed Democrats drove Wednesday toward extending their control of the House for two more years but with a potentially shrunken majority as they lost at least seven incumbents and failed to oust any Republican lawmakers in initial returns.

By midmorning on Wednesday, Democrats' only gains were two North Carolina seats vacated by GOP incumbents after a court-ordered remapping made the districts more Democratic. Though they seemed likely to retain House control, their performance was an unexpected disappointment for the party, which hoped for modest gains of perhaps 15 seats.

After decades of trying, Republicans defeated 15-term Rep. Collin Peterson from a rural Minnesota district that backed President Donald Trump in 2016 by 31 percentage points, Trump's biggest margin in any Democratic-held district. Peterson, who chairs the House Agriculture Committee, opposed Trump's impeachment and is one of the House's most conservative Democrats. He was defeated by Republican

Michelle Fischbach, the former lieutenant governor.

In Iowa, GOP state Rep. Ashley Hinson defeated freshman Democratic incumbent Abby Finkenauer to win a hard-fought race for the state's northeastern congressional seat. Hinson is a former television news anchor.

Also losing were freshmen Democrats Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala, health secretary under President Bill Clinton, in adjacent South Florida districts where Trump seemed to consolidate support among Cuban voters. Others defeated were Democratic freshmen Joe Cunningham, of South Carolina; Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico; and Kendra Horn in Oklahoma, who had surprising victories in 2018 in districts Trump carried decisively in 2016.

Before votes were counted, both parties' operatives said the GOP would be fortunate to limit Democratic gains to a modest single digit. Democrats control the House 232-197, with five open seats and one independent. It needs 218 seats to control the chamber.

A smaller Democratic majority



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE, POOL/AP

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi talks to reporters about Election Day results in Washington on Tuesday.

would make it tougher for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to unite her lawmakers as a handful of progressive freshmen arrive. By retaining House control, Democrats would mark only the second time in a quarter century that they've led the chamber for two consecutive two-year Congresses. The first period ran from 2007 through 2010, when Pelosi was serving her first four years in her post.

"Our purpose in this race was to win so that we could protect the Affordable Care Act and so that

we could crush the virus," Pelosi told reporters, citing former President Barack Obama's health care act. She declared that Democrats had won the House majority, which seemed highly likely but hadn't been officially declared by The Associated Press.

Democrats' hopes of protecting their majority and even expanding it were based on public anxiety over the pandemic, Trump's alienation of suburban voters and a vast fundraising edge. But those advantages didn't carry them as far as they'd hoped.

With GOP expectations for capturing the House all but nonexistent entering Election Day, Republicans were happy with the results.

"House Republicans have outperformed all expectations, said Dan Conston, who heads the Congressional Leadership Fund, a committee aligned with House GOP leaders that provides millions to Republican candidates.

Democrats lost in a majority Hispanic district in West Texas they expected to win when the GOP incumbent retired. And they lost a series of what seemed coin-flip races, failing to defeat GOP incumbents in Cincinnati, rural

Illinois, central Virginia and the suburbs of St. Louis and Texas.

In a district between Austin and San Antonio, freshman GOP Rep. Chip Roy withstood a challenge from Democrat Wendy Davis. Davis gained fame as a state legislator by waging a 2013 filibuster against an anti-abortion bill, then lost a race for governor the following year. The conservative Club for Growth made her its biggest target, spending over \$6 million against her this year.

As if symbolically, Illinois Rep. Cheri Bustos, who leads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, was in her own tight race in a closely divided district she won by 24 percentage points in 2018.

Some endangered Democrats' freshmen like Texas' Lizette Fletcher, Georgia's Lucy McBeth and New Jersey's Tom Malinowski and Andy Kim held on. But the party notched no victories in long-shot races they'd hoped would bolster their majority.

In one noteworthy but unsurprising result, Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has espoused unfounded QAnon conspiracy theories, won a vacant seat in northwest Georgia.

2020 ELECTION

Voters pick Biden on virus, Trump on economy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voters in the U.S. presidential election faced a public health crisis and a wounded economy, but neither candidate emerged as the clear choice to handle both of those issues, according to AP VoteCast.

More voters — both nationwide and in key battlegrounds — said former Vice President Joe Biden would be better able to handle the coronavirus pandemic, the top concern for about 4 in 10 voters. But President Donald Trump edged out Biden on the question of who would be better to rebuild an economy besieged by nearly 11 million job losses and small businesses staring down a bleak winter. About 3 in 10 voters nationally ranked the economy as the most pressing issue.

The competing concerns dominated the race between Trump and Biden, which concluded Tuesday with the candidates locked in tight races across the battleground states. Biden warned that the economy can never fully heal unless the coronavirus is first contained and businesses can fully reopen. Trump argued that the economy should not be a casualty of the disease and maintained, without evidence, that the nation was “rounding the turn.”

Even as Tuesday night passed without a victor, clear lines were drawn in the electorate. Three-quarters of all voters said they knew all along who they supported. And Trump weighed heavily on their minds — two-thirds said their decision was driven by their opinion of the untraditional president, either for or against.

Voters grouped themselves into two coalitions with little common ground — with Republicans seeing a solid economy where Democrats saw fragility. Issues such as racism and climate change were concerns for the majority of



AMANDA RAY, YAKIMA (WASH.) HERALD-REPUBLIC/AP

Voters wait in line to register and cast their vote for the general election outside of the Yakima County Auditor's office in Yakima, Wash., on Tuesday.

Biden voters, but they resonated less with Trump backers.

Trump voters overwhelmingly endorsed their president. About 8 in 10 said their vote was in support of him, not in opposition to Biden, and roughly as many said Trump has changed the way things work in Washington for the better.

Trump continued to draw support from a coalition of white men, white voters without a college degree and those living in small towns and rural communities. Biden enjoyed more backing from women, college graduates, young people and Black, Hispanic and Asian voters.

A majority of Biden voters — about 6 in 10 — said the pandemic was the most important issue, more than twice the share of Trump voters.

AP VoteCast is a nationwide

survey of more than 133,000 voters and nonvoters conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago.

Millions of voters rushed to cast their ballots early, and did so with a clear sense of anxiety and worry. About 6 in 10 voters — including most Biden voters and about a quarter of Trump voters — said they think things in the country are on the wrong track.

Trump's campaign tried to make the handling of the economy a top selling point for his reelection, an uphill battle as unemployment spiked to double digits this spring. A comeback has recently showed signs of stalling as federal aid lapsed because the Trump administration and House Democrats could not reach a compromise. Only about 4 in 10 voters said the economy was good or ex-

cellent, with the rest describing conditions as not so good or poor.

The coronavirus outbreak has claimed more than 230,000 American lives and has been surging across the country in recent weeks. Still, voters were divided on whether the nation has contained the spread of the virus. About half of voters said the virus is at least somewhat under control, while roughly half described the coronavirus as out of control.

Voters in key battleground states shared anxieties about the virus and its spread. In Wisconsin, which saw an October spike in cases, close to half of voters said the pandemic was the top issue facing the country and about 6 in 10 said it was not under control. About two-thirds said the government should prioritize stopping its spread even if it means eco-

nomie pain.

About half of Wisconsin voters said that Biden would do a superior job combating the virus, roughly the same as in Michigan and Pennsylvania. Trump had an edge in stewarding the economy, with roughly half of voters in these states saying he would do better than Biden.

More than 100 million Americans rushed to vote early and by mail, taking advantage of new rules intended to make voting safer and easier during the pandemic. Trump has sought to sow doubt about the new voting systems and the legitimacy of the count, and claimed without evidence that some voters would cheat. The survey found about 3 in 10 expressing doubts that their votes would be accurately counted.

Tensions over structural racism increased this summer after the police killings of several Black Americans, which set off peaceful protests and in some cases riots, looting and violence. Trump positioned himself as a defender of police and cast the protesters as radicals — part of an appeal to suburban and older voters who he thought would embrace a law-and-order message.

Nationally, about three-quarters of voters called racism a serious challenge for society as a whole and close to as many said that of policing in particular. About a quarter said they want to see the police be tougher on crime; about a third think police are too tough. But Trump's pitch to suburbanites appeared to have limited impact. When asked which candidate would be better able to handle policing and justice issues, suburban voters preferred Biden to Trump by a narrow margin.

Scattered protests in cities, but no wide unrest seen

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scattered protests took place from Washington, D.C., to Washington state in the hours after polls closed, but there were no signs of widespread unrest or violence linked to the U.S. election.

The outcome of the hard-fought contest for the presidency remained undecided Wednesday, stirring worries that prolonged uncertainty could yet spark conflict.

But overnight demonstrations in cities including Washington, Seattle and New York remained largely peaceful.

In Washington, more than 1,000 people protesting President Donald Trump converged on Black Lives Matter Plaza on Tuesday night, just a block from the White House, while hundreds marched through downtown, sometimes blocking traffic

and setting off fireworks.

Protesters shouted “Whose streets? Our streets!” and “If we don't get no justice, they don't get no peace!”

Groups of teenagers danced in the street as onlookers cheered. Large banners, including one reading “Trump lies all the time,” were unfurled.

At one point, the marchers stabbed the tires of a parked police van to flatten them.

Hundreds of people marched in anti-Trump demonstrations in Portland, Ore., and Seattle, with several arrested.

“This is what democracy looks like,” protesters chanted in Portland, where organizers said the demonstration would be peaceful and that regardless of the presidential election result, they would continue protesting in support of racial justice. The sheriff's office said some protesters were openly carrying guns.



RINCO H.W. CHU/AP

A police officer looks on during a protest on Election Day, Tuesday, in Los Angeles.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown had put the National Guard on standby, since Portland has seen almost

nightly protests since the death of George Floyd under a Minneapolis police officer's knee in May.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said on Twitter that there would be “no tolerance for any violence, intimidation or criminal destruction,” and that people should be “safe while using their voice to advocate for their perspective.”

In Seattle, police said they arrested several people, including someone who put nails in a road and another who drove over a barricade into a police bike lane. No one was injured.

Hundreds of businesses in cities across the U.S. boarded up their doors and windows ahead of the election, fearing the vote could lead to the sort of violence that broke out after Floyd's death.

“Some people would like to cause mayhem and trouble,” Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said earlier in the day. She said she had never seen so many businesses being boarded up. “That all saddens me.”

2020 ELECTION

Push to relax drug laws gains big state ballot wins

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

A nationwide push to relax drug laws took a significant step forward Tuesday as five more states legalized marijuana for adults and voters made Oregon the first state to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of street drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

The drug measures were among 120 proposed state laws and constitutional amendments that were on the ballot in 32 states. They touched on an array of issues that have roiled politics in recent years — voting rights, racial inequalities, abortion, taxes and education, to name a few.

But none directly dealt with the dominant theme of 2020 — the coronavirus pandemic. That's because the process to put measures on the ballot began, in most cases, before the virus surged to the forefront.

The Oregon drug initiative will allow people arrested with small amounts of hard drugs to avoid going to trial, and possible jail time, by paying a \$100 fine and attending an addiction recovery program. The treatment centers will be funded by revenues from legalized marijuana, which was approved in Oregon several years ago.

"Today's victory is a landmark moment that the time has come to stop criminalizing peo-



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Brenda McIntyre, a co-owner of A Complete Flag Source store in Jackson, Miss., displays the magnolia-centered banner that was approved as Mississippi's new flag Tuesday.

ple for drug use," said Kassandra Frederique, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which backed the measure.

The proposal was endorsed by the Oregon Democratic Party, as well as some nurses and physician associations. The Oregon Republican Party had denounced the drug decriminalization measure as radical, and some prosecutors called it reckless.

Oregon voters also approved a measure making the state the first to legalize the therapeutic use of psychedelic mushrooms.

Voters in New Jersey and Arizona approved measures legalizing marijuana for adults age 21 and older. In New Jersey, the Legislature now will have to pass another measure setting up the new marijuana marketplace. The Arizona measure also allows peo-

ple convicted of certain marijuana crimes to seek expungement of their records. The passage of the measure signaled a change of attitudes after Arizona voters narrowly defeated a legal pot proposal in 2016.

South Dakota on Tuesday became the first state where voters authorized both recreational marijuana and medical marijuana via two separate initiatives in the

same election. The legalization of recreational marijuana was approved by voters in Montana, and medical marijuana won approval in Mississippi.

A decade ago, recreational marijuana was illegal in all 50 states. Voters allowed it in Colorado and Washington in 2012, sparking a movement that already included 11 states and Washington, D.C., heading into Tuesday's elections. Supporters hope additional victories, especially in conservative states, could build pressure for Congress to legalize marijuana nationwide.

Two states considered anti-abortion amendments with different results.

Louisiana voters passed a measure asserting there is no state constitutional right to abortion — something that could come into play if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

In Colorado, by contrast, voters defeated a measure to prohibit abortions after 22 weeks unless the pregnant woman's life is endangered. Previous Colorado ballot initiatives to limit abortion also failed in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

Meanwhile, in Mississippi, voters approved a proposal for a new state flag with a magnolia design. The vote came after legislators ended the use of a flag bearing a Confederate battle emblem in June.

Rhode Island name change in balance as last votes counted

Associated Press

Rhode Island was resuming vote counting on Wednesday after record turnout that delivered its four electoral votes to Joe Biden and returned all three of the state's congressional Democrats to Washington.

Democratic House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello was waiting to see how badly he was beaten by Republican activist Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung, who outpolled him in a district in western Cranston that backed Donald Trump for president for a second time.

"While I wish last night's outcome had been different, it in no

way diminishes the privilege of serving in the House for so long. It's been a good run," Mattiello told supporters Wednesday.

Rhode Islanders were also awaiting the fate of a referendum to drop a "Plantations" reference from the state's official name. A similar measure was defeated a decade ago, but the campaign was resurrected earlier this year amid national anguish over racial injustice.

Republicans are vastly outnumbered in the state Legislature, but Fenton-Fung's victory was sure to trigger a power struggle among House Democrats. Mattiello, an attorney and a conservative Democrat, has been House speaker since 2014 and has represented the district since 2007.

Fenton-Fung, a 39-year-old physical therapist and the wife of longtime Cranston Mayor Allan Fung — a popular two-time GOP gubernatorial candidate — had repeatedly called attention to scandals that have dogged Mattiello, including the money laundering trial of former campaign aide Jeffrey Britt.

Over 480,000 voters cast ballots, besting the state's previous all-time high of more than 475,000 in 2008, when Democrat Barack Obama was elected president, according to preliminary tallies from Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea's office as polls closed.

The office said the final voter turnout count would be higher as provisional ballots, mail ballots placed in drop boxes on election day and ballots cast by voters still in line after polls close were added to the overall count Wednesday.

The outcome of the presidential race was in little doubt in Rhode Island, where Trump lost to Hillary Clinton by more than 15 percentage points in 2016.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Jack Reed defeated Republican challenger Allen Waters, a perennial candidate who mounted earlier unsuccessful campaigns for the state Senate and U.S. Senate in Massachusetts.

In the U.S. House, Democrat David Cicilline, one of Trump's harshest critics in Congress, defeated independents Frederick Wysocki and Jeffrey Lemire to win a sixth term representing the 1st Congressional District.

And Rep. Jim Langevin, the first quadriplegic lawmaker to serve in Congress, defeated Republican former state lawmaker Robert Lancia in the 2nd Congressional District to win an 11th term.

Less than half of veterans running for Congress appear to win office

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Fewer than half of the 182 veterans running for Congress in Tuesday's election won their races by Wednesday morning — incomplete results that appear likely to mean the overall number of veterans in Congress would keep steady or slightly decrease.

As of Wednesday morning, 73 veterans had won their races, and 84 were projected to lose, according to election tracking from

Military Times. The results of nearly 30 races involving veterans remained unknown.

In the Senate, most of the 35 seats up for election had decided outcomes as of Wednesday morning, with nine veterans declared winners and six veterans losing their races.

Fifty-three veterans ran as Democrats for House seats in the 2020 election and 110 ran as Republicans. In the Senate, 19 veterans ran in 17 races — including some of the tightest races of the night.

In Arizona, Democratic newcomer Mark Kelly, a former astronaut and Navy aviator, defeated Republican incumbent Sen. Martha McSally, a retired Air Force colonel who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Meanwhile in Iowa, Republican incumbent Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iraq War veteran and the first female combat veteran in the Senate, won a close race against Democratic challenger Theresa Greenfield.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell held off Democratic

challenger Amy McGrath to win reelection in Kentucky. McConnell enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve during the Vietnam War but was deemed medically unfit for military service. McGrath, a former fighter pilot, was the first woman to fly a combat mission for the Marine Corps.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, an Air Force veteran, won reelection in South Carolina against a strong challenge from Democrat Jaime Harrison.

The outcome of two tight races involving veteran candi-

dates remained uncertain early Wednesday. In North Carolina, Cal Cunningham, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, is challenging Republican incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis. Tillis is not a veteran but is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Tillis declared victory Tuesday night even though the race remained too close to call as of Wednesday morning.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Hospitalizations surge across US

Associated Press

Americans went to the polls Tuesday under the shadow of a resurging pandemic, with an alarming increase in cases nationwide and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 reaching record highs in a growing number of states.

While daily infections were rising in all but three states, the surge was most pronounced in the Midwest and Southwest.

Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota and New Mexico all reported record high hospitalizations this week. Nebraska's largest hospitals started limiting elective surgeries and looked to bring in nurses from other states to cope with the surge. Hospital officials in Iowa and Missouri warned bed capacity could soon be overwhelmed.

The resurgence loomed over candidates and voters, fearful of both the virus itself and the economic toll of any new shutdowns to control its spread. The debate over how far to take economically costly measures has divided a country already sharply polarized over President Donald Trump's turbulent four years in office.

The pandemic colored who voters chose at the ballot box and how they did it. While many Americans took advantage of expanded access to mail-in voting, lines were long in many polling places, with record turnout expected and reminders of the pandemic very serious.

"It's very serious that we have 400 people gathered in one space at the height of the pandemic here in Wisconsin. So, we've tried to take every measure to limit the movement throughout the room," said Claire Woodall-Vogg, the election commission director of the city of Milwaukee, where poll workers were spread out into 12 different pods to limit contact.

Wisconsin health officials reported 3,771 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, a new record.

In Indiana, the Republican candidate for attorney general tested positive for COVID-19 after developing "some symptoms," his campaign announced Tuesday. Former U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita had been quarantining with his family after learning he was exposed to the virus, it said.

Hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused a ballot scanner to jam at a polling place in Des Moines, Iowa, secretary of state spokesman Kevin Han said.

Had some voters' hands were moist when they handled the ballots and the buildup of sanitizer eventually caused the scanner to stop working. The machine was fixed in about an hour.

Meanwhile, Iowa hospital officials warned that facilities and staff could be overwhelmed with out serious efforts to curtail the

virus spread. The seven-day rolling average of the state's positivity rate reached 36.4% over the weekend, the third-highest in the nation behind South Dakota and Wyoming, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations reached a record 730 on Monday.

Suresh Gunasekaran, CEO of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said the state is entering its third peak, one that is higher than previous ones in May and July. He said his biggest concern is that this peak comes at the beginning of the cold weather season, when the flu and other respiratory conditions typically increase hospitalizations.

"The infection rate is definitely a leading indicator for hospitalizations, and the hospitalization rate is a leading indicator of mortality," Gunasekaran said.

Health officials in Nebraska said hospitalizations have doubled in recent weeks, reaching a record 613 on Sunday.

"No doubt if this trend continues — not just at our hospitals — but every hospital in the state could be at capacity in a very short period of time," Dr. Cary Ward, chief medical officer for CHI Health's network of 14 hospitals across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, said during a video call with reporters.

In Missouri, leaders of several rural hospitals raised alarms about bed capacity during a conference call last week with Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who drew renewed fire from his Democratic election challenger for his refusal to issue a statewide mask mandate. Missouri's health department reported 1,659 hospitalizations statewide Monday, surpassing by 10 the previous record set a day earlier. Among the five additional deaths was a 13-year-old boy, the first child under 14 to die from the virus in Missouri.

New Mexico's hospitalizations marked a new high for the 12th day in a row, with 401 reported Tuesday. The state also set a record for the number of COVID-19 cases reported in a single day, 1,141. In Colorado, officials said more residents have been hospitalized with the coronavirus than at any time since a peak in April.

Trump's insistence that the U.S. is "rounding the turn" on the virus angered many voters confronting figures that tell a different story. The virus has killed more than 232,000 people in the country, and total confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 9 million. As hospitalizations have climbed, so have deaths. The seven-day rolling average for deaths from COVID-19 has risen over the past two weeks from about 58,424 on Oct. 19 to 83,805 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Ivan Thompson, left, smiles as his friend Art O'Donnell arrives during check-in at the Community Day Center for Children while teacher and administrator Latoya Oneal looks on Thursday in Seattle.

Families, day cares feel strain of new COVID-19 health rules

By SALLY HO

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Joelle Wheatley hit her pandemic-parenting rock bottom after her son was sent home from day care for a second time, with the sniffles, due to stricter health guidelines in a symptom-sensitive COVID-19 world.

It was supposed to be Jacob's first day back after a stressful 10-day home quarantine for another mild symptom that turned out to be harmless. Frustrated, desperate — there were no other care options, and she needed to focus on work — and certain that the 2-year-old's runny nose and cough were also benign, the Seattle mom defied the day care's orders and brought him back the next day anyway.

"I was just so sure he had a cold, and that sounds so irresponsible," said Wheatley, 43, who works at an early education nonprofit. "But I honestly was just in such a low place."

As more families make the jump back to group day care this fall in an attempt to restart lives and careers, many parents, pediatricians and care operators are finding that new, pandemic-driven rules offer a much-needed layer of safety but also seem incompatible with the germ reality of childhood.

They stem largely from coronavirus guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowering the fever threshold, disqualifying even a single bout of diarrhea or vomiting and making sniffles suspect in group settings.

But the guidelines don't take into account that young children are prone to catching the common

viral infections that help build up their immune systems, or that seasonal allergies, crying, even teething and normal playground exertion can prompt a COVID-19-like symptom.

And the price parents and kids pay for such symptoms — which could easily signal either a happy, healthy toddler, or a lurking case of the disease that has now killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. — is now a dayslong disruption.

That's a reality Wheatley knows all too well: Jacob was turned away again on Day 2 and she then had to scramble to get him a coronavirus test and an appointment with a doctor who wrote a note confirming the boy was virus-free. It took two days to get Jacob back to preschool, causing her anxiety about his health and guilt over neglecting work.

Medical experts acknowledge the lines are blurry for kids with symptoms.

The CDC notes on its website that young children commonly have up to eight respiratory illnesses or colds each year as a matter of course. In its guidelines for K-12 schools, the CDC warns that excluding children for longer than "existing" policies over COVID-19 symptoms alone could cause unnecessary absences.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' latest child care guidelines released in October initially didn't include congestion, runny nose, vomiting or diarrhea on its symptoms checklist. Following questions from The Associated Press, the pediatricians' group updated its recommendations on Friday to include those symptoms in alignment with the CDC, calling it an oversight.

Dr. Elaine Donoghue, who helped write the pediatricians' child care guidelines, said any symptom must be taken seriously if it looks even vaguely like COVID-19. While young children are prone to minor infections, they now in theory face less exposure to those milder illnesses due to pandemic-related social distancing, and that means the calculus behind assessing symptoms changes.

"We should not be expecting certainty during a pandemic," Donoghue said. "This is an uncertain time."

Considered essential in many states, day cares are one of the few services that have remained open through the pandemic that's now stretched nine months and counting in the U.S. Numerous programs have permanently closed, though there are signs families are trickling back to preschool.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of people working in child care has recovered steadily in recent months. But while the 853,000 workers reported in September marks a 28% jump from April, it's still below the more than 1 million in the field a year ago.

Lois Martin, who runs the Community Day Center for Children in Seattle, said the learning curve has been steep for her staff since most of her families returned to the day care. The preschool teachers are now being asked to take on responsibilities requiring medical expertise, such as evaluating runny nose secretions based on thickness and color.

"This is definitely not the world we want our children to be in," Martin said.

NATION

Cruise industry throws in the towel on 2020

Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. — The cruise industry has jettisoned hopes of restarting operations this year.

Days after both Carnival and Norwegian extended a halt on cruises through the end of the year, the group that represents cruise lines with 95% of global ocean-going capacity said Tuesday that its members have agreed to extend the suspension of U.S. sailing operations for the rest of 2020.

The announcement comes just days after the U.S. government effectively lifted its no-sail order despite a global spike in coronavirus infections.

Cruise Lines International Association — which includes cruise giants Princess, Carnival, and Royal Caribbean — said that its members have voluntarily opted out to maintain the current suspension of cruise operations in the United States through the end of the year.

Members “will use the remainder of this year to prepare for the implementation of extensive measures to address COVID-19 safety” along with the guidance of public health experts and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the association said.

On Friday, federal health officials issued new rules that will enable large cruise ships to start sailing again in U.S. waters, though not immediately. Among the CDC’s requirements is that ship owners must test all passengers and crew at the start and end of all voyages, which are limited to seven days.

In mid-March, the CDC ordered cruise ships to stop sailing to U.S.

ports after several outbreaks convinced officials that the vessels were potential cauldrons of infection. After being renewed several times, the most recent order expired in October, with the new guidelines effectively bringing the no-sail order to an end.

The cruise industry has been essentially closed for business since mid-March, when it became clear that the deadly and contagious virus had already been sweeping through the U.S. unabated for weeks. The cruise association estimates that the suspension of cruises snuffed out more than \$25 billion in economic activity, and 164,000 American jobs.

Shares in the major cruise line companies started to decline in February as the virus spread, and hit bottom in mid-March when the U.S. economy effectively shut down. Companies have suffered billions of dollars in losses this year, wiping out more than 70% of their value.

The CDC’s guidelines from last week say that in order to resume carrying passengers, the companies have to demonstrate they have procedures for testing, quarantining and isolating both passengers and crew. They will have to build test labs on all ships, and make their own arrangements to isolate or quarantine passengers on shore if needed. Before being allowed to sail, they will have to conduct mock voyages with volunteers playing passengers who get sick, the CDC said.

The new guidelines come as coronavirus cases surge in the U.S. and around the world with colder weather arriving and more people clustering together indoors.

\$125K submarine tours of Titanic to start next year

New York Daily News

Start saving those pennies, shipwreck fans.

An Everett, Wash., tour company is now taking reservations for a once-in-a-lifetime trip: a submarine tour of the wreckage of the Titanic.

Beginning in 2021, tour company OceanGate Expeditions will offer adventurous, and wealthy, spirits the chance to take a submarine from Newfoundland to the ocean’s depths to seeing the most famous sunken ship of all time.

The cost? About \$125,000.

The 8-day trip will cover the time of traveling to the wreckage as well as a tour that could last as long as 8 hours, depending on weather conditions.

So far, 36 people have signed up for the first six trips.

The Titanic, which was the world’s largest cruise ship when it was built, sank in April 1912 on its inaugural journey across the Atlantic after the “unsinkable” ship hit an iceberg.

More than 1,500 of the 2,224 passengers and crew on board perished in the disaster at sea. The wreckage was discovered in 1985.



JESSICA CHRISTIAN, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

San Francisco’s Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone conducts an exorcism outside of Saint Raphael Catholic Church in San Rafael, Calif., on the spot where a statue of St. Junipero Serra was toppled during a protest Oct. 12.

Exorcisms more frequent, including after US protests

By DAVID CRARY

Associated Press

In popular culture, exorcism often serves as a plot device in chilling films about demonic possession. This month, two Roman Catholic archbishops showed a different face of exorcism — performing the rite at well-attended outdoor ceremonies to drive out any evil spirits lingering after acrimonious protests.

The events’ distinctive character gave a hint of how exorcism — with roots in ancient times — has evolved in some ways as it becomes more commonplace in many parts of the world.

In Portland, Ore., Archbishop Alexander Sample led a procession of more than 200 people to a city park on Oct. 17, offered a prayer, then conducted a Latin exorcism rite intended to purge the community of evil. The event followed more than four months of racial justice protests in Portland, mostly peaceful but sometimes fueling violence and riots.

On the same day, 600 miles to the south, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone performed an exorcism ceremony outside a Catholic church in San Rafael, where protesters had earlier toppled a statue of Father Junipero Serra.

“We pray that God might purify this place of evil spirits, that he might purify the hearts of those who perpetrated this blasphemy,” Cordileone said.

Serra was an 18th-century Spanish missionary priest, long praised by the church for bringing Roman Catholicism to what is now the western United States. His critics, however, have said that Serra, in converting Native Americans to Catholicism, forced them to abandon their culture or face brutal punishment.

Cordileone said the exorcism prayers in Latin, remarking that

“Latin tends to be more effective against the devil because he doesn’t like the language of the church.” The prayers were different from those offered when a person is believed to be the subject of demonic possession.

Two experts on exorcism — religious studies professor Andrew Chesnut of Virginia Commonwealth University and the Rev. Pius Pietrzyk of St. Patrick’s Seminary and University in California — recalled no other recent exorcisms in the U.S. similar to those in Oregon and California.

Chesnut noted that in Mexico, some high-ranking Catholic clergy performed an exorcism in 2015 seeking to expel demons nationwide. Participants said they were responding to high levels of violence, the practice of abortion and the crimes of the drug cartels.

More broadly, Chesnut said exorcism, in its traditional form as a demon-chaser, is increasingly widespread around the world, though there are no official statistics.

“The Exorcist,” the memorable horror film of 1973, depicts exorcism as a relatively rare and secretive endeavor. But it’s now so common that some exorcists combat demons remotely using their cellphones, according to Chesnut.

He says the driving force behind the surge since the 1980s has been the spread of Pentecostal churches that highlight the conflict between demons and the Holy Spirit, especially in Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia, including the Philippines. Brazil is a particularly hot spot for exorcisms, sometimes featured on televised broadcasts of church services. Pastors wave their hands over a person deemed to be possessed, shout orders for the devil to depart, then hold their hand to the person’s forehead and push them backward, occasion-

ally resulting in their collapse.

The Catholic church is not ceding the practice of exorcism to these other faiths. Pope Francis has acknowledged the legitimacy of the practice, and a Vatican-approved university in Rome has been conducting exorcism training sessions during Francis’ papacy for priests from around the world.

In the U.S., one of the premier Catholic entities focused on exorcism is the Pope Leo III Institute in the Chicago suburb of Libertyville. Though operating with approval of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, it is independent and privately funded, with a focus on training and educating priests about exorcism.

In a statement on its website, the institute acknowledges there is some skepticism about exorcism and demonic possession.

“Many Catholics are even among those who don’t believe in the devil or his influence upon them,” it says. “It is important to recall that Pope Francis has never been shy about speaking about the devil, and has warned many times against naivete in the fight against Satan, even in the 21st century.”

One perennial challenge for modern-day exorcists is to determine if a person potentially possessed by the devil is in fact suffering problems better addressed by mental health professionals.

In light of this, the institute says its curriculum “is devoted to the importance of knowing how to discern whether someone is truly possessed, or whether they have some sort of psychiatric or psychological illness.”

The institute says it agrees with those who say exorcisms have increased in recent years, but adds that “there is no serious statistical study of the practice.”

WORLD

Quake death toll rises in Turkey

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — The death toll in last week's Aegean Sea earthquake rose to 116 on Wednesday as rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir finished searching buildings that collapsed in the quake.

All but two of the victims were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city. Two teenagers died on the Greek island of Samos, which lies south of the epicenter of Friday's earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey registered the quake's magnitude at 7.0, although other agencies recorded it as less severe.

Mehmet Gulluoglu, head of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, said search and rescue operations had been completed at 17 buildings that fell in Izmir. The rescue operation has been roaring at full tilt since Friday, pulling 107 survivors from the rubble.

Of the 1,035 people injured in the quake, 137 remained hospitalized on Wednesday, the agency added.

Following a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged not to give up until the final person was recovered.

Rescuers' spirits were raised Tuesday when they pulled a 3-year-old girl from the wreckage of her family home 91 hours after the quake.

The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul, as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Some 1,700 aftershocks followed, 45 of which were greater than 4.0 magnitude.

In Izmir, the quake reduced buildings to rubble or saw floors pancake in on themselves. Authorities have detained nine people, including contractors, for questioning over the collapse of six of the buildings.



EMRAN GUREL/AP

A police officer guards the perimeter Tuesday as members of rescue services work on the rubble of a collapsed building that was destroyed in the Oct. 30 earthquake in Izmir, Turkey.

Ethiopia nears war as PM orders military into defiant region

Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister on Wednesday ordered the military to confront the country's Tigray regional government after he accused it of carrying out a deadly attack on a military base, declaring "the last red line has been crossed" after months of alleged incitement.

The statement by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office, and the reported overnight attack by the well-armed Tigray People's Liberation Front, immediately raised

concerns that one of Africa's most populous and powerful countries could plunge back into war. That would send a shock wave through one of the world's most turbulent regions, the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's neighbors include Somalia and Sudan, and the prospect of spreading instability sent a chill down the spines of observers.

Signaling the gravity of the threat, the United States, in the midst of its election drama at home, quickly issued a statement urging "an immediate de-escalation of the current situation in Tigray and a measured response by both sides."

Addressing the nation on TV, Abiy announced "several martyrs" in the attack in Mekele, the northern Tigray region's capital, and Dansha town. The prime minister said "the end is near" for the regional force, which is based in Ethiopia's most sensitive region, neighboring Eritrea.

There was no immediate word from the TPLF, and all internet and phone lines were cut in the Tigray region following the announcement, provoking distress among people who could not reach loved ones. Tigray TV reported that airspace has been closed over the region, and it asserted

that the northern command of Ethiopia's military had defected to the Tigray government. The prime minister's office told The Associated Press the defection report was "not true."

On Sunday, a senior TPLF official, Getachew Reda, told the AP his side will not accept a negotiation with the federal government. "What we need now is a national dialogue, not a negotiation," he said. The TPLF said the release of detained former officials is one precondition to opening talks.

Abiy's statement asserted that the TPLF attacked a military base in Tigray early Wednesday

and attempted to take artillery and other equipment. The statement accused the TPLF of arming and organizing irregular militias.

"TPLF has chosen to wage war," the statement said. After months of "extreme patience" by the federal government, "a war however cannot be prevented only on the goodwill and decision of one side," it added. "The last red line has been crossed with this morning's attacks and the federal government is therefore forced into a military confrontation" to save the country.





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WORLD

Hurricane Eta lashes Nicaragua with rain, deadly mudslides

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Hurricane Eta continues to spin across northern Nicaragua after passing the country's Caribbean coast for most of Tuesday, isolating already remote communities and setting off deadly landslides in two countries that killed at least three people.

The storm had weakened by late Tuesday, but was moving so slowly and dumping so much rain that much of Central America was on high alert.

Eta came ashore Tuesday afternoon south of the Nicaraguan

city of Bilwi as a powerful Category 4 hurricane after stalling just off the coast for hours. The city of about 60,000 had been without power since Monday evening. Corrugated metal roofing and uprooted trees were scattered through its streets. Some 20,000 of the area's residents were in shelters.

Inland, about 100 miles west of where Eta made landfall, two gold miners were killed when a mountainside unleashed tons of mud Tuesday morning. A third miner escaped the slide and sought help.

One body was recovered before

rescuers had to suspend recovery efforts due to nightfall and fears that more slides could occur as the rain continued, said Lt. Cesar Malespin of the Bonanza Fire Department. He said recovery efforts would continue Wednesday. Bonanza was getting lashed by strong winds and torrential rain, he said.

The storm has been drenching neighboring Honduras with rain since at least Sunday, and the country reported its first death attributed to Eta early Tuesday. A 12-year-old girl died in a mudslide in San Pedro Sula, the main population center in northern

Honduras, said Marvin Aparicio, director of the national system of incident commands for Honduras' emergency management agency.

In Honduras, there were at least 559 people affected by flooding who had to move to shelters or go to relatives' homes, he said. At least 25 people had been rescued, he said. His agency reported at least six rivers causing significant flooding.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua, as well as much of Honduras, could get 15 to 25 inches of rain, with 35 inches in isolated areas. Heavy rains were

also likely in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize and Jamaica.

The quantities of rain expected drew comparisons to 1998's Hurricane Mitch, one of the most deadly Atlantic hurricanes in history. An archival report from the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Mitch led to the deaths of more than 9,000 people.

Cairo Jarquin, emergency response project manager in Nicaragua for Catholic Relief Services, said the immediate concern in northeastern Nicaragua after the storm's passage would be getting water and food to those remote communities.

US officially leaves 2015 Paris agreement on climate change

Associated Press

BERLIN — The United States on Wednesday formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change.

The move, long threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump and triggered by his administration a year ago, further isolates the U.S.

in the world but has no immediate impact on international efforts to curb global warming.

Some 189 countries remain committed to the 2015 Paris accord, which aims to keep the increase in average temperatures worldwide "well below" 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, ideally no more than 2.7 F, compared to pre-industrial levels. A further

six countries have signed, but not ratified the pact.

Scientists say that any rise beyond 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit could have a devastating impact on large parts of the world, raising sea levels, stoking tropical storms and worsening droughts and floods.

The Paris accord requires countries to set their own voluntary

targets for reducing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The only binding requirement is that nations have to accurately report on their efforts.

The U.S. is the world's second-biggest emitter of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide after China, and its contribution to cutting emissions is seen as important, but it is not alone in the

effort. In recent weeks, China, Japan and South Korea have joined the European Union and several other countries in setting national deadlines to stop pumping more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said he favors signing the U.S. back up to the Paris accord.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/AP

Police in Wisconsin stopped the driver of a car with a snowmobile strapped to the roof Sunday.

Driver stopped hauling snowmobile on car

WI CLAYTON — The Wisconsin State Patrol had a little advice for the guy who transported a snowmobile by strapping it to the roof of his Toyota Corolla. Bad idea.

A trooper pulled over the driver after seeing the snowmobile perched sideways on top of the sedan.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation tweeted a photo of the car with the Polaris topper with a message "Folks, don't try this at home."

The driver, Matthew Schmit, 23, of Clayton was issued a warning about the hauling technique and cited for failing to buckle up, according to DOT spokeswoman Christena O'Brien.

He told the trooper he had just bought the snowmobile and was driving it over to a friend's house to show him, the Star Tribune reported.

Parade canceled, virtual event set for Vets Day

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama tradition that bills itself as the nation's longest-running Veterans Day parade was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham won't happen this year because of the threat of spreading COVID-19. A statement from organizers said it will be replaced by an online-only event.

The parade through downtown Birmingham has been held annually since 1947. The "virtual parade" is set for Nov. 11 and will include recorded and live content featuring various groups shown online at nationalveteransday.org.

Grizzly attacks, injuries father, son hunters

MT KALISPELL — A grizzly bear attacked and injured a father and son hunting in northern Montana.

The bear charged out of a thickly wooded area and attacked the two near Smith Lake north of Whitefish Lake in the Flathead Valley, according to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks state agency.

The hunters shot and killed the bear and were later flown to a hospital. Authorities didn't identify the two or say how seriously they were hurt.

Investigators found a deer carcass and concluded the nearly 20-year-old female was defending the food and offspring, the Helena



RUSS DILLINGHAM, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

Flight plan

Honor Flight Maine board chair Laurie Sidelinger, right, helps Jerry Vincent fill out a form to visit Washington, D.C., with Honor Flight during the Veterans Appreciation Day at the YMCA Outdoor Learning and Education Center in Auburn, Maine.

Independent Record reported.

Driver fleeing police gets stuck in cemetery

ND FARGO — Authorities said a drunken driver who was fleeing police after driving the wrong way on a Fargo street was arrested after her vehicle became stuck in a cemetery.

Police said officers tried to stop the 33-year-old driver but she refused to pull over. Her vehicle eventually got hung up in the Holy Cross Cemetery near the airport, KFGO radio reported.

The women faces charges for driving under the influence, refusing to take a DUI test and fleeing an officer in a vehicle. She is also wanted on a Grand Forks County warrant, police said.

City adopts drone response program

GA BROOKHAVEN — Drones will be used to respond to 911 calls in one Georgia city, with Brookhaven becoming the first in the Southeast to adopt a first responder program using the devices.

City officials approved funding for the Brookhaven Police Department's Unmanned Aerial System unit, which will consist of four drones. Brookhaven plans to train and obtain FAA licenses for 12 operators.

Each drone is equipped with a camera that records and streams HD video to the department's

THE CENSUS

13 The number of people charged in 12 separate cases in Florida for stealing more than \$1 million in Social Security benefits. Federal officials said they're targeting people who steal money that the Social Security Administration has inadvertently paid to deceased beneficiaries, usually family members of those charged. So far, 35 people have been charged as part of Operation Dead Ringer. The latest 13 people to be charged with theft of government funds each face up to a decade in federal prison.

crime center, where an officer can relay information to police on the ground. The drones are also capable of thermal imaging, which can spot suspects at night.

City to receive report on unmarked graves

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Charlottesville officials are getting an update on the discovery of unmarked graves in a city park where enslaved people could have been buried.

The Daily Progress reported the city council received a report indicating that there are 43 likely unmarked and unrecorded graves near a cemetery in Pen Park. The report comes after the city commissioned an archaeological firm to survey the site.

The property was once owned by slaveholders, including Dr. George Gilmer, who was Thomas Jefferson's physician.

City staff have plans to ensure the graves are not disturbed by any future projects. And the city is planning to work with historical groups to identify who may be buried in the unmarked graves.

Unlicensed dog breeder charged with abuse

MO JEFFERSON CITY — An unlicensed dog breeder in southern Missouri was charged with 24 criminal counts after she allegedly euthanized 21 dogs she had agreed to turn over to the state, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt said.

Marla McAlmond, who runs Cedar Ridge Australians in Oregon County, was charged with 21 counts of animal abuse, two counts of felony damage and one count of animal cruelty.

Schmitt's office had formerly sued McAlmond over breeding conditions at the business and because she had an expired license.

Despite a temporary restraining order against her, McAlmond continued to breed dogs.

Woman accused of scamming Amazon

FL TAMPA — A 32-year-old Florida woman was accused of receiving \$165,000 in reimbursements from Amazon for shipping costs that she never

paid, sheriff's officials said.

Investigators from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said Hoai Tibma took advantage of a loophole in Amazon's policies by making it appear she had paid to return packages. Instead she was using old prepaid labels from the company.

She's accused of second-degree grand theft and was arrested Oct. 23, an arrest affidavit said.

Between March 2015 and August, she was reimbursed \$3.99 each for about 42,000 returns, the Tampa Bay Times reported.

Sheriff's officials said she used 31 Amazon accounts, all linked to an address in a Tampa suburb.

Tibma faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Equine influenza outbreak killing burros

CA RIVERSIDE — An equine influenza outbreak has killed about three dozen wild burros in the inland region of Southern California and authorities expect the number to rise.

The deaths, which began in mid-October, have mostly occurred in the Reche Canyon area in the western foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains. About 500 burros live in the area 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

Equine influenza is a highly contagious virus specific to horses, mules and donkeys.

From wire reports

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OPINION

Once again, the elites are left flabbergasted

By GARY ABERNATHY

Special to The Washington Post

CLERMONT COUNTY, Ohio — Once again, it was fascinating on Tuesday night to watch and listen to election analysts of all stripes express their surprise that the Democratic nominee not only wasn't running away with the election but that President Donald Trump actually had a chance to win it.

To be surprised by how the night unfolded is to have believed, without evidence, that pollsters had corrected their 2016 errors and that former Vice President Joe Biden's victory was assured. Regardless of the final outcome, polling itself was possibly Tuesday's biggest loss.

Nationally, so many questions were awaiting answers. Would the aggressive get-out-the-vote ground game of the Trump campaign and Republican National Committee — touted as superior to the Democrats' — overcome being vastly outspent on traditional television advertising? Were "shut the door" voters a real phenomenon that pollsters failed to measure? Did the enthusiastic multitudes who turned out for Trump's final swing-state barnstorming tour reflect growing momentum? Tuesday's returns seemed to answer each question: Yes.

While much was made about the substantial early votes cast this year, voting in ways other than showing up on Election Day has been increasingly common in many states, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Just four years ago, 16 states saw early, mail and absentee voting on Election Day. This year, the numbers, including 75% of Arizona voters, 68% in Florida and 65% in North Carolina.

Still, the expansion of such activity

across the nation as a whole, driven by pandemic concerns, was unprecedented. That Democrats were much more likely to vote early than Republicans gave Trump an opening to cast doubt on the reliability of the early vote process. But playing that card seemed increasingly unnecessary thanks to the magnitude and fervency of Trump supporters who flooded polling places on Election Day. When the returns started coming, states that had tabulated early votes first seemed to back up claims of an easy path for Biden. But when the votes cast on Tuesday were added, Trump roared back.

In Ohio, votes in presidential elections are usually counted efficiently and without much drama. All 88 counties tabulate the early votes first — which favored Biden and made Ohio's vote likely a mild hiccup, and then cast Election Day votes, which swung it back to Trump.

The president's apparent ability to hang onto the Buckeye State on Tuesday did not signal nationwide victory, but it did mean a Biden landslide was unlikely. When Trump's Ohio success meant the state would find itself on the wrong side of a presidential race for the first time since 1960, or would it foreshadow an upset electoral win? That answer wasn't clear as of this writing, but Trump helped his cause by apparently retaining Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and even Iowa.

The youth vote, #NeverTrump GOP defectors, social media's anti-conservative biases, the liberal media, being outspent on TV in the closing weeks — by late Tuesday, it looked as though Trump was overcoming all of it. That might turn out to be mistaken, but the quiet, behind-the-scenes mudslinging hoped for by his enemies clearly did not come to pass.

After Trump's unexpected victory in

2016, many Republicans predicted — or wished — that he would moderate the P.T. Barnum aspect of his persona in favor of a more serious, more presidential identity that would appeal to a broader cross-section of voters. Instead, Trump doubled down, playing off his base, rolling the dice that his core supporters' enthusiasm and dedication would be enough to again carry him over the finish line.

The only indication of a broadening of Trump's appeal on Tuesday was his performance with Hispanic and African American voters, who apparently moved toward the president in surprising numbers — not because he changed his message, but because he directed his message, especially on economic issues, directly at them.

The strategy of sticking with such a narrow appeal looked as though it was shockingly successful, but it comes at a cost. Trump will almost certainly again lose the popular vote. If so, it could mean that in three of the past four elections won by a Republican, the victory came despite losing the popular vote.

A longtime friend who is a former Republican official opined to me recently that the nation could not be expected to tolerate such outcomes forever. The answer, he said, is not to eliminate the Electoral College, but to find a way to broaden Republicans' appeal. One could just as easily wonder why Democrats find it so difficult to win the states they need to build an electoral victory.

Those are debates for another day. For Trump, the message he inspired in voters was never been the objective, and, as Tuesday gave way to Wednesday, it looked as though it might not need to be.

Gary Abernathy is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor based in southwestern Ohio.

We've spent 4 years in a TV show. Time to wake up.

By ALYSSA ROSENBERG

The Washington Post

If the mark of a successful finale is whether it delivers clarity and satisfaction, Nov. 3 was a bust. Election Day ended on a messy, anxious note rather than a confident, decisive conclusion. Whether voters were rooting for President Donald Trump's re-election or Joe Biden's victory, let's hope Americans can agree on a closing: After four years of living in a television show — be it a reality show of Trump's making or the heroic drama a lot of us wish we inhabited — it would be awfully nice to return to a more boring reality.

It quickly became clear Tuesday evening that Election 2020 wasn't going to deliver either a cathartic blow for Democrats or another last-minute twist in the story of Trump's political career. Instead, in brief remarks after midnight, Biden counseled optimism and faith in the process, while Trump, true to form, tweeted that he was being cheated. It was, in a way, a fitting capstone to the 2016 election, one in which whatever the value of cliffhangers as a dramatic device, there's nothing fun about living through one.

Trump the character has long eclipsed Trump the person, whether his stage was New York tabloids, the courtroom set on "The Apprentice," Twitter or a presidential campaign. Trump the 2016 character — a Hollywood finish, coming from behind to defeat Hillary Clinton, who would have made history as the first female U.S. president — and whose candidacy capped her own soap-opera life story.

Many Americans responded to that turn of events by behaving as if they were part of a fictional story themselves, be it a re-

ality competition, a paranoid thriller or a historical drama. And Trump brought his made-for-TV strategy with him to the White House.

In keeping with the tactic that made Trump famous, the Trump administration became an extended, acrimonious reality show. It included actual veterans of "The Apprentice," such as Omarosa Manigault Newman. Sometimes, as when a former confidant of first lady Melania Trump published a tell-all, it seemed like the White House was quickly turning into the D.C.-based installment of "Real Housewives." For nearly four years, the excitement and ugliness have been constant.

If Trump himself stuck to the genre that made him famous, some of his followers seemed to prefer a paranoid thriller, glomming onto QAnon, a bizarre conspiracy theory movement that portrays Trump as a messianic leader working to defeat a cabal of evil pedophiles. As far as fringe as this theory seems, QAnon adherent Marjorie Taylor Greene was elected to the U.S. House in Georgia on Tuesday, ensuring that the movement will become more entrenched and more vocal.

Meanwhile, some Trump opponents took cues from inspirational historical movies, styling themselves as the Resistance. There were iconic props, such as the bright pink hats, made famous during the 2017 Women's March — the first mass response to the Trump administration — that depicted a female body part to highlight a Trump remark from the infamous "Access Hollywood" video. The Resistance produced stars, such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and shady opportunists, like conspiracy-theory promoter Louise Mensch, whose followers and villains to populate a fictionalized

Deadwood, S.D., or Pawnee, Ind.

The fiction-like antics didn't stop there. Take Miles Taylor, a former Department of Homeland Security official who made headlines in 2017 for inspiring a Washington guessing game by anonymously flaming Trump in the New York Times op-ed page. Almost like a storyline on "Scandal," he spun out the drama for a book deal and two years of declining returns, before recently revealing his identity — with significantly less splash — to go public with his book.

All the characters and chaos of the Trump era, most Americans are extras, not stars. Very few people are emerging from the past four years with big paydays or higher profiles. Living at this pitch has gotten most of us a lot of anxiety, that's for sure. For all the talk of political work-life balance, it's Walter Mitty and imagine performing heroically in fantastical situations, mundane reality has its advantages. Yes, it's less exhilarating to be a regular voter than a highly connected fixer, much less a partisan fighting for control of your occupied home. But the time for fantasy and crushing responsibility — and a promise of timely resolution that doesn't always arrive in real life.

If Americans are lastingly transformed by the Trump era, it is more likely to be in small ways than big, such as the courage to do political work for the first time or a revitalizing involvement in a neighborhood mutual aid network. Whatever happens with the election, our national story continues. We might all be a little saner if we remember that we're the authors, and that we can choose realism over the political reality show.

Alyssa Rosenberg blogs about pop culture for The Washington Post's Opinions section.

Frazz



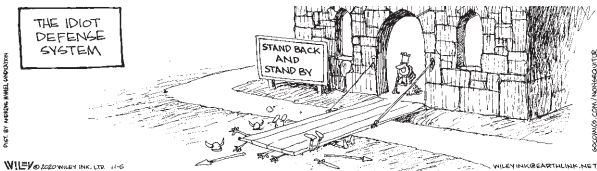
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



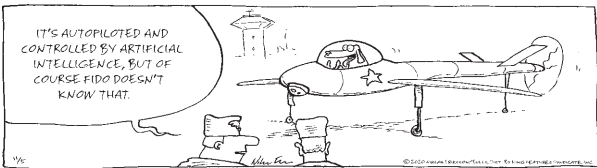
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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53					54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Grub
- 5 Coffee vessel
- 8 Baseball stats
- 12 Sitarist Shankar
- 13 Grazing land
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 War god
- 16 "— so fast!"
- 17 "Phooey!"
- 18 Swiss metropolis
- 20 Persia, today
- 22 "Sweet Charity" actress
- 26 Santa —
- 29 British ref. work
- 30 "Where did — wrong?"
- 31 Unctuous
- 32 Gore and Pacino
- 33 Garden intruder
- 34 New Deal agency
- 35 Actress Gardner
- 36 Reacts to yeast
- 37 "The Call of the Wild" author
- 40 Baldwin of "Aloha"
- 41 Pupil's cover
- 45 Ersatz swing
- 47 — Dhabi
- 49 Dog biscuit shape
- 50 Play opener
- 51 Year-end abbr.
- 52 Taj Mahal city
- 53 "It's — real!"

DOWN

- 1 Rocky outcrop
- 2 Tortoise's opponent
- 3 Pizza cooker
- 4 Know-it-all
- 5 Arm bones
- 6 Old Oldsmobile
- 7 Locals
- 8 Doppler device
- 9 After-dinner drinks
- 10 Suffix with cash
- 11 — Juan
- 19 Beetle and
- 21 Flushed
- 23 Pitching ace Ryan
- 24 Curved molding
- 25 Agrees silently
- 26 Pt. of speech
- 27 Turkish money
- 28 Type of menu
- 32 Salad ingredient
- 33 Reception amenity
- 35 Pub order
- 36 "Crying" singer
- 38 Calvin of fashion
- 39 Wimbledon tie
- 42 Theater box
- 43 Concerning
- 44 Like Beethoven
- 45 Bar bill
- 46 Decorate a cake
- 48 Ann Patchett's "— Canto"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	O	W		T	U	B	
Y	O	G	A		P	A	P
H	E	L	E	N	O	B	E
A	T	T	E	N	T	I	O
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A	T	M					

11-5

CRYPTOQUIP

VQAZV LBIZX LQKCZGI RSQLG

XIZAJIO BJLP RJL BQ LGJLQM

YQQC ZM BSG PZBVSGM:

"UGGBKG UJO-KGJY."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FOLKS BECOME VERY DELIGHTED BY LOOKING AT BEAUTIFUL PANORAMAS, ARE THEY VIEW-PHORIC?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

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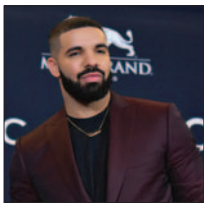


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FACES



AP

Drake's "Laugh Now Cry Later," featuring rapper Lil Durk, is his 21st No. 1 hit on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart.

Drake breaks record with his 21st No. 1

Associated Press

Earning his 21st No. 1 hit on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart, Drake has bested a record previously held by icons Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

Drake's "Laugh Now Cry Later," featuring rapper Lil Durk, reached the No. 1 spot on the chart this week. Franklin, who died in 2018, and Wonder each have had 20 songs top the chart.

Of Drake's 21 No. 1 hits on the R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart, 12 include him in the leading role, including "God's Plan," "In My Feelings," "Hotline Bling," "Hold On, We're Going Home" and "Best I Ever Had," his first major hit released in 2009. Nine of his No. 1 successes are songs he co-starred on, including "Work" with Rihanna, "Moment 4 Life" with Nicki Minaj, "Fall for Your Type" with Jamie Foxx and "I Invented Sex" with Trey Songz.

At 34, made Billboard chart history this year when he set a new record for most songs on the Hot 100 chart — Billboard's main songs chart that includes all music genres.

Grammys change award from 'world' to 'global'

The Grammy Awards have changed the name of their best world music album category to the best global music album, an attempt to find "a more relevant, modern and inclusive term."

The Recording Academy said in a statement that the new name "symbolizes a departure from the connotations of colonialism, folk and non-American" that the former term embodied.

"As we continue to embrace a truly global mindset, we update our language to reflect a more appropriate categorization that seeks to engage and celebrate the current scope of music from around the world," the statement said.

The step comes five months after the Academy made changes to several Grammy categories, including renaming the best urban contemporary album category to best progressive R&B album.

It follows a similar recent step made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which changed the name of its best foreign language film Oscar to best international feature film.



HBO Max

Kaley Cuoco is pictured in a scene from "The Flight Attendant," her first live-action role since "The Big Bang Theory" ended.

Kaley Cuoco out to prove she's more than 'the girl next door'

By ASHLEY LEE
Los Angeles Times

Kaley Cuoco kicked off her last birthday in a rooftop pool with Michiel Huisman, surrounded by floating candles, champagne flutes and a sweeping view of Bangkok. She was on location for the pilot episode of "The Flight Attendant," her first live-action role since "The Big Bang Theory" ended and the project that launched her production company.

This year, she'll celebrate her 35th birthday as the ambitious limited series — which only finished filming some weeks ago, after a months-long COVID-19 hiatus — premieres its first three episodes Nov. 26 on HBO Max.

"That's honestly the best gift ever. I told the crew when we wrapped, 'I love you guys, and I really hope it does not take you a year to shoot just eight episodes ever again!'" she said with a laugh.

"Some people are gonna love it, some people are gonna hate it — like, I know that's gonna happen. My whole career has prepared me for that. But I love TV; I grew up on TV. And I can go to bed knowing I made the best show possible, and that thrills me." "The Flight Attendant" pairs the premise of Chris Bohjalian's bestselling book — in which Cassie (Cuoco), a thirtysomething stewardess who fond of alcohol and adventure, wakes up next to a bloody corpse and has no idea how she got there — with slick, retro aesthetics and fast-paced dark comedy.

By juxtaposing glamorous international backdrops with naturalistic dialogue, "The Flight Attendant" manages to be both entertainingly escapist and refreshingly relatable. That's true even in its most novel conceit, which finds Cassie piecing together what happened by asking the dead guy (a deliciously deadpan Huisman, to say the least).

"Huge swaths of the book are set in Cassie's head as she's asking herself: What happened? What did I do? How am I the kind of person this can happen to?" said co-showrunner and head writer Steve Yockey, a playwright and former "Supernatural" writer-producer.

"But it's not fun to watch someone think onscreen. So we came up with this idea that, whenever she mentally goes back to that moment of sheer panic and terror to try to make sense of it, (Huisman) is pretty much acting as her conscience. It's not very fun for her,

but with the humor, it's enjoyable to watch."

This narrative device requires some suspension of disbelief, but "it lets the audience understand her point of view because, unfortunately, female characters get a lot more judgment than male characters when it comes to the thriller genre," said Susanna Fogel, who directed the first two episodes.

"A big part of Kaley's magic has always been that she really does seem like the girl next door," she continued. "So it's important for Cassie to feel like a normal person who happens to be in this extreme situation. And instead of just writing her off, you still like her and root for her, even when her character isn't taking responsibility for some things, or doing the right thing or being completely honest with herself and other people."

Onscreen and off, "The Flight Attendant" is new territory for the serial sitcom star. As

'It's been an unbelievable experience to go from 12 years of such silly, fun comedy to something like this.'

Kaley Cuoco

On her new HBO Max series, "The Flight Attendant"

Cassie continues to question her memory of that fateful night, she comes to unearth trauma she's left repressed for years under layers of liquor. It's a long-awaited opportunity for Cuoco — whose career has required pausing for live-action laughs on CBS' "Big Bang" and ABC's "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter" — to show off her dramatic chops.

"It's been an unbelievable experience to go from 12 years of such silly, fun comedy to something like this," she explained. "In the later episodes, I'm very raw, crying with no makeup on and, like, completely breaking down. I didn't think anyone would give me this opportunity, so I felt like I had to get the project made myself and prove that this is actually the kind of work I want to be doing."

Cuoco launched Yes, Norman Productions,

named after her first rescue dog, in the final years of "Big Bang."

Filming the episodes out of order turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as the cast and crew wrapped in Bangkok and Rome before the emergence of COVID-19 led to government-mandated shutdowns.

As one of the first productions to resume with pandemic safety precautions, the series slimmed the number of extras and crew and finished its remaining four weeks of filming in New York.

Being at the top of the call sheet as well as a producer, Cuoco came to set with her signature sunny disposition and a palpable air of confidence about their pandemic protocols. "We really did feel that, because we were one of the first shows back on its feet, there were a lot of eyes on us, so we wanted to make sure we were taking every step correctly," she said. "I knew I needed to show leadership, because everyone who was coming back was — I mean, this sounds dramatic, but really, though — risking their lives to work."

With "The Flight Attendant" wrapped, Cuoco is already working on producing her next project: a live-action Apple TV+ comedy series called "America's Sweetheart." It's from the creators of Warner Bros. animated series "Harley Quinn," which she'll continue to voice in its upcoming third season.

As "The Flight Attendant's" Thanksgiving Day premiere draws closer, Cuoco is curious if audiences will welcome her new roles as a dramatic actress and as a hands-on producer. Will enough of that record "Big Bang" viewership migrate to this premium streaming service and tune in?

"That experience — the cast, the amount of time spent together, the pay, the ratings — like, it was nuts, it was unheard of," she said of playing Penny on "Big Bang." "That was so special and will be a part of my heart for the rest of my life. Nothing will ever compare to that, and I think knowing that helps me separate that from what I'm doing now, which is so different and new."

"I'm a little bit nervous, because, obviously, how can I not be a little bit nervous? People have seen me in a certain way for a very long time," she continued. "But I'm thrilled for people to see this because, I mean, we finished this thing in the middle of a pandemic. That alone deserves a cheers right there."

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College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 8 BYU at No. 21 Boise State
No. 11 Coastal Carolina at North Carolina State
Saturday
No. 1 Clemson at No. 4 Notre Dame
No. 3 Ohio State vs. Rutgers
No. 5 Georgia vs. No. 8 Florida
No. 6 Cincinnati vs. Houston
No. 7 Texas A&M at South Carolina
No. 10 Wisconsin vs. Purdue, ccd.
No. 12 Oregon vs. Stanford
No. 13 Indiana vs. No. 23 Michigan
No. 14 Oklahoma State at Kansas State
No. 16 South Carolina vs. South Alabama
Sunday
No. 16 Marshall vs. Massachusetts
No. 17 Iowa State vs. Baylor
No. 18 SMU at Temple
No. 19 Oklahoma vs. Kansas
No. 20 Southern Cal. vs. Arizona State
No. 21 Texas vs. West Virginia
No. 25 Liberty at Virginia Tech

Tennis

Paris Masters
Wednesday
At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy
Paris
Purses: \$3,343,750
Surface: Hardcourt, indoor
Men's Singles
Daniel Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Kevin Anderson (4), South Africa, 6-6, 6-0
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, vs. Benjamin Bonjard, France, 6-4, 6-4
Men's Doubles
Round of 32
Franko Skugor, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, def. Luke Saville and Max Purcell, Australia, 6-3, 6-3

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Activated RHP Jeff Rodriguez from the 60-day IL.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAIDERS — Placed 5 DeShon Elliott on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Tyre Phillips and OT Ronnie Stanley on injured reserve.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed OL Bobby Massie on injured reserve. Signed OL Lacharius Simmonds from the practice squad. Signed OL Aaron Neary to the practice squad. Placed OT Jason Spriggs and OL Germaine Fildes on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed QB Andy Dalton on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
DENVER BRONCOS — Placed TE Jake Blevins on injured reserve.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed LB Jarred Davis on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed TE Dax Raymond to the practice squad and released TE Nakia Griffin-Stewart from the practice squad. Placed LB Kamal Martin and RB Jamaal Williams on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed WR Darius Jackson from the practice squad. Released RB Darius Jackson from the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Acquired RB DeAndre Washington from Kansas City.
MINNESOTA PATRIOTS — Acquired WR Isaiah Ford from Miami in exchange for RB Devin Asiasi and a 2021 7th-round pick. Claimed DT Isaiah Oliver from Tennessee. Placed TE Devin Asiasi on injured reserve.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Acquired OL Kenyan Drake from San Francisco.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed OG Kenyan Drake from San Francisco.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed S Bennett Jackson and LB Bryce Harper. Waived C James Murray.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Waived TE Dallas Goedert.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Acquired QB Brock Purdy from the practice squad. Placed QB Jimmy Garoppolo on injured reserve. Waived WR Dante Pettis and DL Julian Taylor.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated TE Austin Seibert from the reserve/RFN list. Waived TE Luke Wilson.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Waived WR Mike Evans.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Waived CB Jonathan Joseph and LS Beau Brinkley.

Pro football

NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East									
Buffalo	W	2	0	750	198	199			
Miami	F	2	0	571	188	180			
New England	N	2	0	286	136	127			
N.Y. Jets	S	0	8	0	0	0	94	238	
South									
Indianapolis	1	6	0	714	198	136			
Tennessee	2	0	714	208	184				
Houston	1	6	0	143	166	217			
Jacksonville	1	6	0	143	154	220			
North									
Pittsburgh	1	0	1,000	211	142				
Baltimore	5	2	0	714	203	132			
Cleveland	5	2	0	625	206	237			
Cincinnati	5	2	1	313	194	214			
West									
Kansas City	1	0	875	253	152				
Las Vegas	4	3	0	571	187	203			
Denver	2	0	429	147	183				
L.A. Chargers	2	0	286	136	197	185			

NFL NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE									
East									
Philadelphia	W	2	0	750	198	199			
Washington	3	4	1	438	186	205			
Dallas	2	0	286	133	165				
N.Y. Giants	1	7	0	125	145	199			
North									
Tampa Bay	2	0	750	247	165				
New Orleans	3	2	0	714	206	197			
Carolina	3	2	0	375	179	193			
Atlanta	3	2	0	250	209	224			
South									
Green Bay	5	2	0	714	219	187			
Chicago	3	4	1	438	161	166			
Detroit	3	2	0	429	177	206			
Minnesota	3	2	0	286	183	214			
West									
Seattle	1	0	875	240	199				
San Francisco	5	2	0	714	203	146			
L.A. Rams	5	3	0	625	193	152			
Arizona	4	3	0	500	208	173			

Thursday, Oct. 29
Atlanta 25, New England 31
Buffalo 21, Tennessee 20
Indianapolis 41, Detroit 21
Las Vegas 35, N.Y. Jets 9
Las Vegas 16, Cleveland 6
Miami L.A. Rams 17
Minnesota 28, Green Bay 21
Pittsburgh 28, Baltimore 20
Denver 31, L.A. Chargers 30
New Orleans 26, Chicago 27
Seattle 37, San Francisco 27
Philadelphia 23, Dallas 9
Open: Houston, Jacksonville, Arizona, Washington

Monday, Nov. 2
Tampa Bay 25, N.Y. Giants 23
Thursday's game
Green Bay at San Francisco
Sunday's games
Baltimore at Indianapolis
Carolina at Kansas City
Chicago at Tennessee
Denver at Atlanta
Detroit at Minnesota
Houston at Jacksonville
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Seattle at Buffalo
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers
Miami at Arizona
Pittsburgh at Dallas
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Open: Cincinnati, Cleveland, L.A. Rams, Philadelphia

Monday's game
New England at N.Y. Jets

Pro soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE									
W									
x-Toronto FC	13	4	2	44	42	29			
x-Columbus	11	5	3	38	33	18			
x-Orlando City	10	8	4	36	21				
x-New York City FC	11	8	3	36	33	22			
x-New England	8	9	5	29	27	30			
x-New York	8	9	5	29	27	30			
x-Nashville	7	6	5	21	19				
Montreal	7	13	2	23	30	41			
Chicago	6	12	3	22	28	38			
Inter Miami CF	6	11	6	21	23	36			
D.C. United	6	11	6	21	23	36			
Cincinnati	6	14	16	11	11	34			

WESTERN CONFERENCE
W **L** **T** **Pts** **GF** **GA**
x-Portland CF 11 6 3 36 36 26
x-Sporting KC 11 6 3 36 36 26
x-Seattle Sounders FC 9 7 4 31 44 35
x-Los Angeles FC 9 7 4 31 44 35
x-Colorado Rapids 9 7 4 31 44 35
x-Minnesota United 9 7 4 31 44 35
San Jose 8 14 0 24 44 44
Portland at Los Angeles
Colorado at Orlando City
Real Salt Lake
LA Galaxy
D.C. United
Note: For the 2020 season, MLS will determine standings using points per game.
Wednesday's games
Columbus at Orlando City
Chicago at Minnesota
FC Dallas at Nashville
Colorado at Portland
New York City FC at Chicago
Portland at Los Angeles
Los Angeles FC at San Jose
Seattle Sounders FC at New York City FC
San Jose at Seattle
LA Galaxy at Vancouver

New players set to make their debuts

US men getting fresh talent

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gio Reyna could make his U.S. debut next week on the eve of his 18th birthday.

The Borussia Dortmund midfielder, a son of former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna, is among 10 players on the youthful 24-man American roster who could debut in an exhibition against Wales at Swansea on Nov. 12. The Americans also play Panama four days later at Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

"Gio is a different type of attacking player. I think he's more of a straight-line player, a guy who can arrive in the penalty box and can give a final pass, a final cross," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said Tuesday.

Reyna could become the 12th player under 18 to make his U.S. debut. The match at Wales will be just the second in the pandemic-disrupted year for the Americans, who beat Costa Rica 1-0 on Feb. 1 with a roster of players mostly from Major League Soccer.

He could team in a new-look midfield with 22-



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP
Dortmund's Gio Reyna, right, embraces teammate Erling Braut Haaland after the Champions League round of 16 first-leg match against Paris Saint Germain on Feb. 18.

year-old Christian Pulis, in his second season at Chelsea; 22-year-old Weston McKennie, in his first season at Juventus; and 21-year-old Tyler Adams, in his second full season at Leipzig.

Berhalter's team is preparing for the start of World Cup qualifying, which likely will be delayed until next September.

Other young players getting playing time in Europe include 17-year-old Valencia midfielder Yunus Musah and five 20-year-olds: Barcelona outside back Sergio Dest; Bayern Munich defender Chris Richards; Eintracht Frankfurt's Richard Ledezma; midfielder Sebastian Soto, who has five goals in six matches this season at second-tier Telstar in the Netherlands; and forward Nicholas Gioacchini, who has two goals in seven matches this season for second-tier Caen in France.

Heat: Two former champs among final four

FROM BACK PAGE

includes two former champions: Joey Logano, who won in 2016 under this current format, and his Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, who won in 2012 under different rules. Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing is back in the final four for the third time and Chase Elliott is making his championship debut for Hendrick Motorsports.

Only Hamlin and Gabehart, in their second season as driver and crew chief, have previously raced for a championship together.

Paul Wolfe won the 2012 title with Keselowski but now crews chiefs Logano. Keselowski is in his first season with newcomer Jeremy Bullins, and Elliott is teamed with Alan Gustafson, who led Jeff Gordon in Gordon's 2015 final four appearance.

Gustafson believes he can help Elliott manage the stakes of the winner-take-all final race as NASCAR's most popular driver competes in his first championship.



TERRY RENN/AP
Crew chief Christopher Gabehart, right, looks on during the season finale of the Toyota race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The gamble backfired and Hamlin had to pit again to avoid overheating his engine.

"I don't think you can really be prepared for it until you go through it," said the veteran Hendrick Motorsports crew chief. "Going through this weekend, we can help prepare him for it. It's a unique experience. I think you have to go through it to really understand it and learn how to manage it."

The dynamic at Team Penske is interesting in that Logano and Keselowski both worked through the coronavirus-impacted season with new crew chiefs, having to learn their team leaders with little track time. The Penske organization made a three-team swap at the start of the year and Wolfe, the only crew chief in the finale with a title, is teamed with the only driver to win a championship in this format.

Wolfe doesn't think prior title runs give them an edge, but points to Logano's win three weeks ago at Kansas that locked the No. 22 team into the finale. Wolfe has extended time to work on their Ford for Phoenix, where Logano won in March before the pandemic shutdown.

"I feel like we have an advantage because we won at Kansas, (I've) have had maybe a little more time to put thoughts into how do we want to approach the race?" Wolfe said.

Keselowski will go to Phoenix with four wins and drive the Ford that won at New Hampshire and Richmond.

"When we made the swap, we immediately added a ton of experience to our team. We've just tried to take advantage of Brad's experience, use that to better what we were doing as a race team, put ourselves in a good spot," Bullins said. "I think we're just trying to make it no more than what it is, not make it bigger than what it is. Obviously, there's a lot on the line."

NFL

NFL expands sidelines to give more distancing

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

The NFL is expanding the sideline area to give teams more space to distance, and mask usage is now mandatory before and after games and at halftime.

The updates to the COVID-19 protocols were sent to clubs in a memo on Tuesday, a day after the league learned two players who played in games Sunday tested positive.

The league also is strongly encouraging players to wear masks whenever they come off the field and teams in intensive protocol are prohibited from holding in-person coaching and personnel meetings.

"What we are trying to convey is masks can prevent you from becoming a high-risk contact, which is our goal, so it's in everybody's best interest to wear a mask for their protection and again to reduce exposure," NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills said on a conference call. "We believe that the mask use, whether it's in the locker room, on the sideline, it just reduces your chance of becoming a high-risk contact should someone turn positive."

Ravens All-Pro cornerback Marlon Humphrey has confirmed he was one of the positive cases who played Sunday. Results from pre-game tests available immediately available.

Weekly statistics

AFB individual leaders

Week 8				
Quarterbacks				
Att	Yds	TD	Int	
Mahomes, KC	284	190	2315	21
Burrow, Cin	237	186	2172	16
Allen, Buf	239	166	2095	15
Watson, Hou	231	161	1860	10
Minshew, Jac	267	176	1855	13
Cook, Min	236	167	1843	13
Tannehill, Ten	233	157	1823	17
Herbert, LAR	227	153	1820	5
Rodgers, GB	212	147	1828	15
Runners				
Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Henry, Ten	161	775	4.8	94
McCaffrey, Car	148	610	4.1	45
Hunt, Cle	115	529	4.6	33
Jacobs, Las	147	522	3.6	16
Conner, Ari	110	498	4.5	59
J.Robinson, Jax	107	481	4.5	39
Edwards, Min	108	478	4.4	28
Jackson, Bal	66	411	6.2	50
Da'Johnston, Hou	101	392	3.9	29
Taylor, Ind	100	389	3.9	21
Receivers				
Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Diggs, Buf	54	695	12.9	49
Kelce, KC	48	610	12.7	45
Boyd, Cin	54	584	10.8	25
Allen, LAC	53	548	10.3	28
Hill, KC	39	537	13.5	54
Beasley, Buf	41	494	12.0	29
Fuller, Hou	37	488	13.2	29
Higgins, Cin	33	488	14.8	67
Cooper, Dal	31	490	15.8	53
Landry, Cle	33	419	12.7	32
Punters				
No	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Kern, Ten	20	965	66	48.3
Blair, Den	26	125	69	48.1
Anger, Hou	25	1202	67	48.1
Townsend, KC	29	1377	67	47.6
Huber, KC	19	878	70	47.5
Bailey, New	19	889	60	46.8
Sanchez, Ind	27	1248	63	46.2
Long, LAC	21	889	63	45.4
Almon, Min	44	1992	60	45.3
Punt returns				
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD
McCloud, Pit	9	150	16.7	57
Grant, Min	10	129	12.9	48.1
Roberts, Buf	13	170	13.1	38
Ericsson, Min	10	93	9.3	22
Proche, Bal	16	146	9.1	17
Carlier, Ten	10	87	8.7	15
Raymond, Ten	13	92	7.1	40
Kick returns				
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD
Rodgers, Ind	11	367	33.4	101
Duvernay, Bal	9	295	32.8	93
Roberts, Buf	14	399	28.5	58
McCloud, Pit	11	285	25.9	49
B.Wilson, Cin	15	370	24.7	49
Olson, Min	15	285	23.8	48
Reed, LAC	9	209	23.2	46
Scoring Touchdowns				
TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Henry, Ten	8	0	0	48
Hill, KC	8	1	7	48
McCoy, Pit	8	0	0	48
Hunt, Cle	7	3	4	42
Kelce, KC	6	0	6	36
Newton, NE	6	6	0	36
J.Robinson, Jax	6	4	2	36
Kicking				
PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Bullock, Cin	20-20	18-18	55	74
Carson, Las	19-20	18-18	54	67
Blankenship, Ind	20-20	16-16	44	56
Garoppolo, San	18-23	14-15	55	65
Butker, KC	24-29	13-14	58	63
Sanford, Min	22-22	12-12	52	61
Bass, Buf	21-22	13-18	53	60
McManus, Den	13-14	14-15	56	55
McClure, Min	12-17	12-17	54	53
Fairbairn, KC	16-17	12-14	50	55
Parkey, Cle	22-23	10-11	46	52

NFC individual leaders

Week 8				
Quarterbacks				
Att	Yds	TD	Int	
Ryan, Atl	316	211	2462	12
Brady, TB	280	231	1847	9
Wilson, Sea	256	183	2151	26
Goff, LAR	284	186	2145	13
Bridgewater, Car	257	184	1108	9
Rodgers, GB	249	164	1948	20
Stafford, Det	246	151	1943	13
Brees, No	253	185	1898	13
Wentz, Phi	305	178	1883	12
Prescott, Dal	222	151	1866	9
Runners				
Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Cook, Min	122	652	5.3	39
Gurley, Atl	140	531	3.8	39
Jones, TB	117	529	4.5	37
Elliott, Dal	132	521	3.9	24
Deebo, San	119	512	4.3	37
Henderson, LAR	95	458	4.8	40
Montgomery, Chi	112	432	3.8	17
K.Murray, Ari	65	437	6.7	48
Sanders, Phi	71	434	6.1	74
Kamara, No	87	431	5.0	49
Receivers				
Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Hopkins, Ari	57	704	12.4	60
Anderson, Car	51	686	13.5	75
Metcalfe, Sea	36	680	18.9	62
Ridley, Atl	43	657	15.3	63
Robinson, Chi	50	631	12.6	42
Moore, Car	33	622	18.8	74
Cooper, Dal	54	588	10.9	58
J.Jones, Atl	38	584	15.4	44
Sanders, Phi	31	434	14.0	46
Lockett, Sea	49	575	11.7	47
Punters				
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD
Fox, Det	27	1437	67	53.2
Johnson, Phi	24	1414	71.5	50.4
Dickson, Sea	29	1461	67	50.4
Way, Min	24	1431	60	48.0
Heber, LAR	32	1519	63	47.5
Wishnowsky, SF	25	1169	59	46.8
Donnell, Chi	27	1718	64	46.4
J.Scott, GB	19	857	62	45.1
McLaurin, Was	21	1380	59	44.5
Lee, Ari	25	1100	58	44.0
Punt returns				
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD
Harris, No	11	177	16.1	42
Dion, Min	14	93	6.7	42
Lamb, Dal	13	89	6.8	27
Ward, Min	10	56	5.6	19
S.Sims, Was	10	56	5.6	19
Webster, LAR	10	56	5.6	15
Kickoff returns				
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD
Patterson, Chi	22	696	31.7	100
Agnew, Det	11	294	26.7	35
Harris, No	11	273	24.8	35
McKinnis, TB	3	243	80.9	38
Cooper, Car	16	384	24.0	38
Osborn, Min	8	210	26.3	38
Homar, Sea	9	204	22.7	44
Scoring Touchdowns				
TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Cook, Min	8	0	0	48
Gurley, Atl	8	0	0	48
D.Adams, GB	4	0	0	42
Evans, TB	7	0	7	42
Jones, GB	7	0	7	42
Kamara, No	7	0	7	42
Lockett, Sea	7	0	7	42
Metcalfe, Sea	7	0	7	42
K.Murray, Ari	7	0	7	42
Thielen, Min	7	0	7	42
Kicking				
PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Koo, Atl	14	19-20	54	71
Succop, TB	26-27	15-17	50	71
Sve, Car	24-24	13-13	58	69
Lutz, No	23-23	15-16	53	63
Garoppolo, San	22-22	14-14	55	65
Santos, Chi	15-15	14-16	55	57
Prater, Det	19-19	12-17	51	55
McClure, Min	12-12	12-12	54	53
Zuerlein, Dal	14-16	13-16	59	55
Gould, SF	22-23	10-11	52	52



MORRY GASAP

Green Bay Packers running back Jamaal Williams is one of three players, including two running backs, who have been placed on the team's COVID-19 reserve list, making them ineligible to play Thursday.

Packers RBs in short supply

Green Bay may have to face San Francisco without top 3 running backs

By STEVE MEGAREE
Associated Press



Green Bay Packers (5-2)
at San Francisco 49ers (4-4)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Friday CET
10:20 a.m. Friday JKT

The Green Bay Packers could be missing their top three running backs when they visit the San Francisco 49ers on Thursday night.

Green Bay has placed running backs A.J. Dillon and Jamaal Williams plus linebacker Kamal Martin on the COVID-19 reserve list over the past two days. That makes all three players unavailable for Thursday's game, according to NFL protocols.

The Packers' leading rusher is Aaron Jones, whose status remains uncertain for this week after he missed Green Bay's past two games with a calf injury.

"We'll give him up to game time, and then we'll figure it out," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said of Jones' status. "We'll see."

The Packers (5-2) knew they'd be facing this obstacle once they learned Monday of Dillon's positive test. Williams and Martin

were added to the COVID-19 reserve list Tuesday because the league determined they had high-risk close contacts with someone who was infected.

Williams had rushed for 152 yards and caught 10 passes over the past two games while Jones was sidelined. Dillon, a rookie second-round pick from Boston College, had five carries for 21 yards and a 16-yard reception Sunday in a 28-22 loss to the Minnesota Vikings.

The Packers would be in a major bind if they're also without Jones, who has rushed for 389 yards and has seven total touchdowns in five rushing, two receiving in five games.

Green Bay's only other running backs are Tyler Ervin and Dexter Williams, who isn't related to Jamaal Williams.

"Those guys work hard, and they've been a part of our system now for over a year and they know what the expectations and standards are," LaFleur said. "It was good work for them to get reps today. We'll see come game time if Aaron Jones can go or not."

Ervin, who also returns kicks and lines up at receiver, has rushed four times for 43 yards and caught six passes for 33 yards this season. He missed two games because of an injury.

The 2016 fourth-round pick from San Jose State has 10 career carries. The Packers claimed him off waivers last December and re-signed him in March.

"He can do a lot," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "I think it's important we don't put too much on his plate. He's been in the receiver room for a majority of the year. He's been a great returner for us. He's obviously coming back from his hand injury, which has kept him out of a lot of return stuff. But he's versatile guy."

Dexter Williams, currently on Green Bay's practice squad, has played one game this season without any carries. The 2019 sixth-round pick from Notre Dame had five carries for 11 yards last year. Rodgers said Williams has a "really good attitude" and has "done a nice job of growing up in the offense and feeling more comfortable with the checks and his responsibilities in pass-blocking and route-running."

Even with all their issues at running back, the Packers are much closer to full strength than the 49ers (4-4) heading into Thursday's game.

49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (ankle) and All-Pro tight end George Kittle (foot) are out indefinitely after getting hurt Sunday in a 37-27 loss to the Seattle Seahawks. Other injured 49ers include receiver Deebo Samuel, cornerback Richard Sherman, pass rushers Nick Bosa and Dee Ford and running backs Raheem Mostert, Tevin Coleman and Jeff Wilson Jr.

"By no means do you ever want this," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "You want all your guys and you want to be going as good as you can. But you have to embrace everything. You've got to embrace the quick turnaround with Thursday night football. You've got to embrace injuries. You've got to embrace everything."

Packers running back A.J. Dillon, left, tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, making him ineligible to play Thursday.

SPORTS ACTIVISM/MLB/NBA

Sports take a break for voting, activism

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just past noon on Election Day, after casting her vote where the NBA's Wizards and NHL's Capitals play, Mary Pittman exited through one of the arena's glass doors. Perched on the 77-year-old retiree's walker, a stars-and-stripes hat totting the basketball team, autographed on the brim in fresh black ink.

"No line," Pittman said about Tuesday's balloting. "No waiting. No confusion. No fuss."

At a time when athletes are embracing activism like never before, refusing to heed the unfounded admonition framed two years ago by one TV talking head as "shut up and dribble," there was vivid symbolism in the wide use of team arenas and stadiums as voter registration and polling sites.

If the United States' fields of play once were walled off from politics — Colin Kaepernick, whose 33rd birthday happened to be Tuesday, saw his sideline kneeling to call attention to police brutality and systemic racism contribute to his status as a "former NFL quarterback" — they have become fertile ground for those sorts of statements in 2020.

"Athletes, like anyone, are entitled to their opinion," Pittman said. "But I don't have to agree with it."

And that's absolutely fine, said



rick bowmer/AP

A woman votes at the Vivint Smart Home Arena, Tuesday in Salt Lake City. Sports teams across the country took the day off to vote and to encourage others to do so.

Ish Smith, the Wizards guard who signed Pittman's cap.

"I've loved and respected how we have ... been able to speak out on certain things that was, in the past, uncomfortable. It says a lot. Says how far we came as athletes. And we're going to keep growing, keep evolving," Smith said.

"Sports and politics — usually people keep to one side," he said. "Now they're intertwining."

Indeed, that intersection never has been as pronounced as now, whether manifested in the messages on courts and jerseys during the NBA season. Or walkouts staged by that league's players

and followed by others from tennis to hockey. Or the unfurling of a black ribbon held by the Washington Nationals and New York Yankees before they knelt in unison at the first game of the Major League Baseball season.

"When I played, players and coaches were never — maybe

not never; rarely — asked about politics and voting," Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "But the times are different. Our country is in turmoil, and everybody plays a role."

Tuesday, meanwhile, was that rare day in the U.S. without scoreboards. Nothing (other than a NFL trade deadline).

Some of that was courtesy of the coronavirus pandemic — the 2020-21 NBA and NHL seasons normally would be in full swing, but the delayed finishes of their previous seasons pushed back the upcoming ones — and some of it was because of Election Day. The NFL and Major League Soccer ordered everyone to take a day off. Similarly, the NCAA barred every top-division college team from playing or training.

Yet sports' presence was felt. Athletes can "encourage people to listen to one another, to unite and come together, more so than divide," Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores said. "I think that's important to a lot of the players. I think they want better for this world."

There were wide-reaching, nonpartisan "get out the vote" efforts endorsed by players, teams and leagues themselves, including Los Angeles Lakers super star LeBron James' "More Than a Vote" group, formed not long after the police killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville.

Arenado, Gordon win 8th Gold Glove; Betts gets his 5th

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado won his eighth consecutive Gold Glove and right fielder Mookie Betts snared his fifth in a row on Tuesday, his first with the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers after four with Boston.

Kansas City Royals left fielder Alex Gordon also won his eighth Gold Glove — and fourth straight — in his final major league season.

Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo earned the honor for the third straight year in the pandemic-shortened season and fourth time overall. He was joined for the first time by Cubs shortstop Javier Baez.

Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart won for the second time and first since 2017. St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong won for the second year in a row, six days after the Cardinals allowed him to become a free agent rather than exercise his \$12.5 million option for 2021.

St. Louis left fielder Tyler O'Neill, Atlanta pitcher Max Fried and San Diego center fielder Trent Grisham were first-time winners in the National League.

Gordon and Cleveland catcher Roberto Perez were the only players to repeat in the AL. They were joined by seven first-time winners, including Indians second baseman Cesar Hernandez. The others were Seattle first baseman Evan White and shortstop J.P. Crawford, Texas third baseman Isiah Kiner-Falefa and right fielder Joey Gallo, Chicago White Sox center fielder Luis Robert and Los Angeles Angels pitcher Griffin Canning.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado won his eighth consecutive Gold Glove on Wednesday. He had a career-high .982 fielding percentage and a career-low three errors.

The 36-year-old Gordon announced his retirement in September. He joined Hall of Fame outfielder Roberto Clemente and first baseman Wes Parker (both in 1972) as the only position players to win a Gold Glove in their last big league season, according to Sportradar.

Gordon, Hernandez, White and Wong earned \$18,519 bonuses, prorated portions of \$50,000. Arenado and Robert earned \$9,259, prorated portions of \$25,000, and O'Neill earned \$3,704, a prorated portion of \$10,000.

Perez's 2021 salary escalated by \$250,000 to \$5.75 million, and Barnhart's by \$250,000 to \$4 million.

Gold Gloves are presented annually by Rawlings. Because of the shortened season, the awards were based on the Society for American Baseball Research's Defensive Index. From 2013-19, the index was about 25% of the total, with the rest voting by major league managers and up to six coaches per team.

Source: NBA players plan vote on season schedule

Associated Press

A person with knowledge of the situation says NBA players are planning to vote on whether they would prefer to start the coming season in December or wait until January, with that decision expected before the league's board of governors meets to potentially formalize some plans on Friday.

The vote by members of the National Basketball Players Association will show how many prefer a 72-game season that starts on Dec. 22, or a season of perhaps 58 or 60 games that would start on Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 18, said the person who spoke Tuesday to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the plan has not been publicly announced.

Among the issues: revenue. The NBA believes starting on Dec. 22 would allow for \$500 million in additional revenue for the coming season, and the league's primary television partners also want that start date in part to allow for the traditional Christmas broadcasts. Some players, however, have said starting in December is too soon for teams like the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat, who were in the Walt Disney World bubble until mid-October for the NBA Finals. But a January start

would mean less revenue, on the heels of a season where the league missed revenue projections by \$1.5 billion and 14% of the regular season wasn't played because of the pandemic — meaning players lost roughly the same percentage of their salaries.

"Honestly, there's a level of compromise on each side," Jonathan Isaac of the Orlando Magic, that team's player rep to the NBPA, said earlier this week. "You know, this has not been easy with everything that's been thrown at the league and thrown at us just as just people trying to figure things out. So, there's a level of compromise on both sides but we're continuing to talk ... I just hope that we can get to a conclusion that works for everybody."

The NBA and the NBPA agreed late last week to push back the date by which either party may opt out of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement to Friday. In the interim, the league and the NBPA have continued working on amending the current CBA to allow for next season — all necessary moves considering the existing language on many topics such as free agency, an 82-game schedule and more is outdated because of the coronavirus pandemic.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



KYUSUNG GONG/AP

Southern California quarterback Kedon Slovis added 15 pounds of muscle to prepare for his sophomore season. The Trojans play host to Arizona State on Saturday to open their season.

The weight of expectations: Much is expected of USC's bulked-up Slovis

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kedon Slovis won't catch anybody by surprise the second time around at Southern California.

And it's not just because the unassuming quarterback who took the Pac-12 by storm last year is a whole lot harder to miss now with his extra 15 pounds of muscle.

"He went from a young man to a grown man in a year," USC coach Clay Helton said with a smile.

Slovis is becoming more than the unheralded teenager who produced the best season by a freshman quarterback in USC's voluminous history last fall. When the No. 20 Trojans finally begin their regular season Saturday morning at the Coliseum against Arizona State, Slovis carries both the weight of his responsibilities and the heavy expectations that gather on this program's best players.

His enlarged frame makes the burden look lighter — and you'd never know it anyway from Slovis' perpetually cool demeanor.

"We just want to give our guys the opportunity to make plays, and it starts with me," Slovis said. "That's really the most I can do at this point, and what I'm focused on."

Slovis projects a calm belying his 18 years, but he spent the extra-long offseason lifting weights, eating well, poring over video and assuming a greater leadership role. All kinds of tangible growth has happened since his impressive debut season ended with an injury in the Trojans' loss to Iowa in the Holiday Bowl, according to the coaches most responsible for guiding his journey.

"The biggest advantage is he has a year under his belt now," USC offensive coordinator Graham Harrell said. "I think that he feels more comfortable checking routes and protecting plays



Arizona State (0-0)
at USC (0-0)
AFN-Sports2
10 a.m. Sunday CET
6 p.m. Sunday JKT

than he probably did last year. You know, if he sees something, he feels more comfortable attacking it. ... I (also) think now, after a year of being the guy, I think the team sees him in a different light, and I think that'll help."

The difference in Slovis' arm skills is already coming out in practice, where the sophomore is regularly frustrating the elite talent on the Trojans' defense.

"He's really an NFL quarterback playing college football right now," USC starting cornerback Olajiah Griffin said. "There will be plays where I'll make a good play, break on the ball, and he just fits it in the spot where I just can't reach, even though I'm doing everything correct."

For a freshman who got on the field only because JT Daniels injured his knee in the season opener, Slovis put up stunning numbers last season: 3,505 yards passing with 30 touchdowns and nine interceptions in 11 games at the helm of Harrell's version of the Air Raid offense.

Slovis was the Pac-12's offensive freshman of the year after posting the highest completion percentage (71.9) by a freshman in NCAA history. It was also the highest ever by a USC quarterback or a Pac-12 passer, topping the marks set by Cody Kessler and Stanford's Andrew Luck, respectively.

What's more, the Air Raid of-

fense often becomes more productive when the quarterback in charge hits his second year of experience. North Texas, Harrell's previous collegiate stop, took a big leap forward under quarterback Mason Fine in Harrell's second season in charge.

That difference sometimes shows up in the offense's tempo, which is supposed to be as fast as possible in most situations. Harrell saw Slovis picking up that crucial confidence late last season in the Trojans' 52-35 win over archrival UCLA.

"The first drive or two, Kedon is moving at the pace of a snail, it seems like, and his body language (stinks)," Harrell said. "And then we see him kind of get a little bounce to him. The offense starts to get lined up a little faster. We start playing at a little faster rate, and I don't know if we got stopped the rest of the night."

The USC offense put up 455.4 yards per game and averaged 32.5 points last season, and improvement on those numbers will be tough, but not impossible. Slovis has an enviable selection of receivers, including Amon-Ra St. Brown and Tyler Vaughans, along with four scholarship tailbacks.

Any quarterback is dependent on his line, and USC's group could be excellent. Probable left tackle Alijah Vera-Tucker leads three returning starters — or four with the inclusion of Andrew Vorhees, who started 20 games in 2017-18 before redshirting last season with an ankle injury.

Despite his uncommon accuracy, Slovis also threw nine interceptions last year. He has worked extensively on learning how to avoid the decisions that led to those mistakes.

"The games where I didn't turn the ball over, we ended up winning it," Slovis said. "And the games we did lose were probably because of turning the ball over too much."

Schedule madness: college hoop teams scramble for games

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

The NCAA's announcement of a college basketball start date led to a huge scramble as schools tried to fill out schedules altered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead of getting easier with time, the task of building schedules has become more difficult as the season's start date nears.

Travel is an issue. So is finding common testing protocols. Restrictions in every state are all different and constantly changing with virus cases on the rise. The cancellation of several multicall events left huge holes. Even sorting out officiating has presented challenges.

It's been like trying to simultaneously build 353 separate puzzles with overlapping and sometimes-missing pieces — and time is running out.

"We don't know a lot of things," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. "But we know we're going to have March Madness."

"We don't know much about both — and it's a hell of a way to run a railroad."

The coronavirus ran college basketball, like every other sport and aspect of life, off the rails in March. The NCAA tournament was wiped out and so was part of the payout to member schools, a whopping \$375 million shortfall.

Following the lead of sports such as the NFL and Major League Baseball, the NCAA opted to start college basketball's regular season on Nov. 25. The NCAA reduced the maximum number of games from 31 to 27 for teams

playing in multiteam events, 25 for those that don't.

The plan is to play the NCAA Tournament in March, possibly in a "bubble" environment like the NBA and NHL did.

The key is finding a way to get there. Even with meticulous planning before the NCAA's announcement, teams had a tough time finding opponents.

The season was pushed back, so games set for early November had to be postponed or dropped. Lost games had to be replaced

with new opponents, with a premium placed on regional schools since most teams don't want to fly during a pandemic.

Virus testing protocols had to be worked out and finding officials, many of whom work multiple games a week in different states and conferences, was a complex, unexpected issue.

In addition to all that, scheduling turned into a shifting platform filled with unexpected trap doors at nearly every turn.

Several multiteam events moved locations — the Maui Invitational from Hawaii to North Carolina, the Cancun Challenge from Mexico to Florida — leading to teams dropping out. Other multiteam events were canceled, leaving scheduling holes.

"There's been nothing like it," Illinois coach Brad Underwood said. "It's truly COVID 2020, unprecedented as so many things are."

Underwood described Illinois' schedule as a blank sheet of paper last month, and the Illini have since added a Dec. 8 game against Duke in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

'We don't know a lot of things, but we know we're going to have March Madness.'

Mike Krzyzewski
Duke coach



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo and other coaches are finding scheduling difficult with so many different coronavirus restrictions across the country.

SPORTS



Short-staffed

Packers may be without top three RBs against 49ers » **NFL, Page 21**

NASCAR

Feeling the heat

Crew chiefs strive for perfection in final race

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

The NASCAR championship was in clear reach when Denny Hamlin made his final pit stop in last year's title-deciding finale. With everything on the line, his crew chief went with an aggressive adjustment aimed at gaining one last burst of speed.

Chris Gabehart called for a large, thick patch of tape across the front right side of the No. 11 Toyota. It was a gamble Gabehart was willing to take, believing "you've got to dance with the fire to beat these guys."

He got burned.

The aerodynamic adjustment backfired, Hamlin had to pit again to avoid overheating his engine, and his title chances were over. As Gabehart leads Hamlin back into the championship race Sunday, the crew chief has no fear of overthinking his team out of title contention.

"You've certainly got to learn from your mistakes and your successes, right? That's part of getting better," he said. "I'm not concerned of making those same issues again. For better or worse, we're going to put our best foot forward, give Denny the best platform we can as a race team to go out and perform, then we're going to let him perform."

The pressure will be intense Sunday at Phoenix Raceway for both the drivers and their team leaders. There is no practice or qualifying under COVID-19 protocols, so the cars must be dialed-in when they are unloaded on race day.

The four-driver field this year

SEE HEAT ON PAGE 20

Denny Hamlin had the NASCAR Cup championship in his grasp last year when his crew chief made an aerodynamic change to his car that ultimately prevented him from winning it.

JOHN RADUX/AP



Logano



Keselowski



Elliott



Sports call timeout to allow everyone to vote » Page 22

