Stars and Stripes

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The figures form centerpieces for the museum’s six main galleries that reflect the Army’s history from its militia roots in the early 1600s through its roles in ongoing wars in the Middle East, museum officials said Thursday. The chronologically arranged galleries feature unique artifacts, short vignettes about soldiers’ personal experiences at war and interactive displays that explain things like the music soldiers listened to in the era and the food they ate.

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New museum shows war from soldiers’ perspective

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

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Biden: ‘Let’s give each other a chance’

President-elect calls for reconciliation, unity; Trump continues to reject result

By Will Weisert
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Joe Biden used his first national address as president-elect to vow to heal a deeply divided nation, declaring it was time to “let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end” and reaching out to the millions of people who voted against him to say, “Let’s give each other a chance.”

His calls for reconciliation at a Saturday evening victory celebration came even as President Donald Trump continued to argue that the election had been stolen from him, an indication that the divisive politics that have gripped the U.S. over the past four years are far from over.

It also suggested that even as Biden seeks to build out a government during his transition to the presidency, the president has little interest in helping him do so.

“For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment,” Biden said during a drive-in event in Wilmington, Del. “It’s time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again.”

Biden heads into his first full day as president-elect on Sunday with key staffing decisions to make as the coronavirus rages. The always-frenzied 10-week transition period before Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 already has been shortened by the

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The National Museum of the United States Army includes some 70 cast figures of soldiers in action, created from scans of current active-duty soldiers.
US recalls older Volvos after fatal air bag explosion

Associated Press

DETROIT — Metal fragments from an exploding air bag inflator killed the driver of an older Volvo, touching off a U.S. recall of up to 54,900 cars, regulators said Saturday. The inflator was made by auto parts supplier ZF/TRW, but U.S. government documents show parts supplier ZF/TRW, but U.S. government documents show the devices perform similarly to other automakers.

NHTSA said the ZF/TRW inflator rupture that caused the death is the only known incident worldwide. The recall covers Volvo S60 and S80 cars from the 2001 through 2003 model years. Volvo said it will replace the driver’s air bag at no cost to customers.

Japanese parts maker Takata used ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion to inflate air bags in a crash. But the chemical can deteriorate over time when exposed to moisture. The explosion can blow apart a metal canister and hurl shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

At least 26 people have been killed worldwide by the inflators, including 17 in the United States.
Marine officer escapes punishment for theft

By Matthew M. Burke  Stars and Stripes

A Marine lieutenant colonel found guilty of stealing hundreds of dollars in merchandise from a base exchange in South Korea has escaped punishment, according to a published report.

Lt. Col. Samuel E. Lee, 47, was convicted Sept. 11 at Camp Foster, Okinawa, of two counts of violating Article 121 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or larceny of non-military property valued at $1,000 or less, the military news website Task & Purpose reported Thursday, citing court records.

Lee, a logistics officer for Marine Forces Korea, stole a 4K ultra high definition wire-free security camera system, Apple Airpods with a wireless charging system, Bose noise-cancelling headphones and Estee Lauder Re:Nutriv Ultimate Diamond energy cream between Nov. 1, 2019, and March 8, 2020, according to the report, which cited Marine officials with knowledge of the charges.

A conviction for theft at or under $1,000 could bring a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for one year, according to the manual on courts-martial.

However, the judge in the case “did not impose punishment,” according to the Corps’ report on court-martial disposition for September, “consistent with the plea agreement.”

Lee remains on active duty and is stationed at Marine Corps Forces Korea, spokesman Capt. Joseph Butterfield wrote in an email Thursday to Stars and Stripes.

A legal counselor contacted by Stars and Stripes said Lee escaping punishment is out of the ordinary.

“It is unusual in my mind that a convening authority would protect an officer from punishment under these circumstances,” Crista Kraics, a retired Marine Corps judge advocate, told Stars and Stripes on Thursday by email.

Lee, a former Combat Logistics Battalion 5 commander, has been in the Marines for more than 23 years, Task & Purpose reported.

He earns approximately $10,000 per month, according to military pay scales posted to the Defense Finance Accounting Service website.

Kraics said lower enlisted Marines typically receive harsher punishments than the one rendered in the Lee case.

“An enlisted Marine at Special Court Martial, even under a pretrial agreement, would likely receive a harsher punishment and fewer agreed-upon protections for this level of larceny,” she said.

Decisions like the one in the Lee case “absolutely” erode morale, Kraics said.

“When senior officers commit misconduct, the first question that springs to mind is how many junior Marines has this officer been responsible for punishing for equal or lesser crimes,” she said. “Officers should be held to the highest of standards, as we learn from commissioning and throughout our career.”

Kraics can be reached at kraics.mariestripes.com  Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

DODEA program aims to help students transition at schools

By Seth Robson  Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Lunch breaks, field trips and football games are events where students make friends when they arrive at a new school, something the children of service members do often.

The coronavirus pandemic means those things have been canceled or happen online or with masks and social distancing, making it more challenging for kids to make new friends. But a pilot program at six overseas military schools in the Pacific aims to help.

“Normally, kids go to the teen center or meet at sports events,” said Pamela Tucker, who coordinates the Pacific Students Transition Program at Edgren Middle/High School on Misawa Air Base in northeast Japan.

“Normally you meet somebody at the football game, but we’re not having football games this year.”

Students in the program take a personality test and are matched with student partners with similar likes, she said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

The program also introduces new arrivals to local culture, Tucker said.

“We don’t want them to come to Japan and stay on base for a whole tour and never interact with the Japanese culture, so we create cultural experiences for them,” she said.

Because of pandemic restrictions, that interaction is happening online. So far, the 15 kids in Edgren’s transition program have done virtual tours of Japanese museums, aquariums and language training with local Japanese schools.

Students in the program are lined up with peer tutors for subjects where they could use some help, Tucker said.

The program also helps departing students by introducing them to transition programs at other military schools or available programs at regular schools, she said.

One of those helping new students adjust to life in Japan is Jasmine Vina, 18, daughter of an Air Force maintainer.

Vina knows what they’re going through.

When she moved to Misawa in 2017 from Aviano, Italy, her transition assistance wasn’t much more than a tour of the school, she said in a telephone interview Friday.

Kids moving into new schools during the pandemic might find it harder to make friends but the friends they do find are probably more genuine, Vina said.

Many of the kids arriving at Misawa are on their first overseas tour, she said, and the transition program allows them to interact with students who have been in the same situation.

Lunch periods, when students usually talk to friends, are limited with fewer people allowed in the cafeteria and separate dining cubicles. Vina and her friends have been hanging out with the new arrivals and taking them to off-base restaurants such as Off the Wall and Tubes, which both serve Hawaiian food.

One of the new students Vina has helped is Haley Black, 17, who arrived from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, last month.

“Covid made it harder to make friends because it’s difficult to connect and gather,” she said in an email Friday, referring to COVID-19’s contagious disease caused by the coronavirus.

The transition program has helped her connect with her new school and classmates, Black said.

“I have only been in the school 3 weeks, but I have had a blast,” she said.

“I have attended a cultural virtual field trip, game night, dance battles, and … a meet and greet luncheon.”

Black said she’s made friends through the program.

“They are fun and caring,” she said. “They are just like me, trying to make the best of a senior year that is seriously impacted by covid.”

The transition program is also running at McCool Elementary/Middle School on Guam, Yokosuka Middle School and Kadena High School in Japan, and at Osan Middle High/School and Humphreys Middle School in South Korea.

“We’re looking to bring the other schools in the Pacific by this time they open in August next year,” Tucker said.

Robson.Seth@stripes.com  Twitter: @SethRobson1

Above: Edgren Middle/High School students Destiny Jagers, left, and Brianna Sanchez play a game while participating in the Pacific Students Transition Program at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Below: Jasmine Vina, left, helps Haley Black, a new student at Edgren Middle/High School on Misawa Air Base, adjust to life in Japan through the Pacific Students Transition Program.

Lee
**PACAF leaders urge readiness against China**

**By Caitlin Doornbos**  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. troops must be ready for conflict with China as tensions rise between the two nations, Air Force leaders said Friday during a Facebook Live video call to airmen in Japan.

Beijing, with its “malignous and coercive activity that’s frequently not in accordance with international law,” is the greatest challenge facing the region, PACAF Commander Gen. Tod Wolfschmidt told the airmen.

“We’ve got to challenge and compete with them in accordance with the nation-first strategy, but we also have to be ready in the event we get called to go fight tonight,” he said.

China’s “disturbing” behavior, Wolfschmidt said, includes its “crackdown on the democratic process” in Hong Kong that sparked unrest last year, its recent border clashes with India and its militarization and island-building in the South China Sea.

Beijing believes it has a historic right to the region, pointing to early maps China published that claim the South and East China Seas as its own. However, a United Nations panel in 2016 rejected these claims in a ruling in a case brought by the Philippines.

“They are making new islands in the South China Sea and saying that it’s always been that way and it’s their territory — and it hasn’t,” Wolfschmidt said. “That’s revisionist history.”

Wilsbach criticized China for “threatening action” when U.S. military ships and aircraft approached “near the door” to the 12-mile territory of China, referring to the distance from coastlines that makes up a nation’s territorial waters under international maritime law.

“All that malign activity is causing a lot of consternation with us and with our allies and partners in the region because we are looking for a free and open Indo-Pacific, which includes open commerce, open seas [and] open skies in accordance with international law,” Wilsbach said.

U.S. allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region are keen on its advantage, Wilsbach said. Regular training and work with other nations’ militaries are done “so that eventually we can become interoperable and maybe even integrated.”

The U.S. military uses the term “interoperability” to describe the ability of a country’s armed forces to use another country’s training methods and military equipment. Frequent exercises with Japan’s Self-Defense Forces and Australia’s navy are examples of interoperability.

“That’s something that our adversary really has to calculate through if they want to have a conflict with us,” Wilsbach said on the call. “In short, it becomes a deterrent value before the fight starts.”

Should conflict break out, that ability to fight alongside partners “becomes a great asset because our strengths are much greater together than they are alone,” he said.

Current operations in the Pacific aim to “push out the timeline” of Beijing’s aggressive behavior, PACAF Chief Master Sgt. David Wolfe said during the call.

“We’ve got to do everything we can to present different decisions to our adversaries in the Pacific that causes them to delay their ultimate goals,” he told the airmen, “and that’s what you guys are doing: you’re drawing out there every single day.”

“If you don’t think that you’re participating in conflict, you know, kind of that kinetic level right now — you are,” Wolfe added. “You absolutely are.”

**USAF gets its first new ‘Jolly Green’ rescue helo**

**By Wyatt Olson**  
Stars and Stripes

The first pair of the Air Force’s new “Jolly Green” rescue helicopters — an aircraft with a legacy tracing back to the Vietnam War — arrived Thursday at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

The 23rd Wing and 347th Rescue Squadron received two HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopters, flown in from Lockheed Martin’s Sikorsky Training Academy in Stuart, Fla., the Air Force said in a news release Friday.

The service in February unveiled the name of its new combat rescue helicopter, which follows the tradition of the Vietnam-era HH-3E Jolly Green and early 1960s-era S3 Super Jolly Green. The original chopper earned its nickname from a mashup of its green exterior paint and a top-clad, green-hued cartoon giant featured in a 1960s-era canned-vegetable advertising campaign.

The delivery of the two helicopters marks the beginning of the service’s transition away from the HH-60G Pave Hawk model, which airmen have been flying for more than 26 years, the Air Force said.

The service will continue to use Pave Hawks until the planned acquisition of 108 Jolly Green IIs is complete, the Air Force said.

The Jolly Green II features many overall improvements over its predecessor, including better defensive system, hover performance, electrical capacity, avionics, cooling, weapons and cyber-security, the Air Force said.

The helicopter’s primary mission will be conducting operations into hostile environments to recover isolated personnel during war, both day and night, the Air Force said.

It will also be employed for non-warfighting operations such as civil search and rescue, medical evacuation, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, NASA space-flight support and rescue command and control, the Air Force said.

The Air Force developed the original HH-3E helicopter, dubbed the Jolly Green Giant by U.S. troops, by modifying Sikorsky’s CH-3 transport helicopter. The choppers entered the Vietnam War carrying armor plating and armament for its primary mission of combat search and rescue of downed airmen.

With a Watertight hull, the chopper could land on water, and its large rear door could be easily loaded and unloaded.

With aerial-refueling capability, it also had range, setting a record for helicopters in 1967 by flying nonstop from New York to Paris, according to the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Creation of the HH-3 choppers were awarded 24 Air Force Crosses, more than 190 Silver Stars and 1 Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett underscored the importance of the crews operating combat search and rescue missions during the February naming ceremony.

“Reviving the Jolly Green name honors our combat search and rescue crews past and present,” Barrett said.

“Anybody else could have gone back to his friends. He asked no one about what he had done. He had the airmen friends reported his actions to leadership.”

Cantrell, who had been in the service for approximately one year at the time of the rescue, was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal at the beginning of September. The medal is awarded for outstanding achievement that causes them to delay their ultimate goals, he told the airmen, “and that’s what you guys are doing: you’re drawing out there every single day.”

“If you don’t think that you’re participating in conflict, you know, kind of that kinetic level right now — you are,” Wolfe added. “You absolutely are.”

**Airman honored for saving Japanese mom and child**

**By Matthew M. Burke**  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Airman 1st Class Leonard Cantrell Jr., 28, knew something wasn’t right as he watched a Japanese mother struggle to keep her young daughter’s head above water.

The computer technician with 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base kept a close eye on the situation as he gingerly walked around the lip of the pond at Okinawa’s Tatsaki waterfall taking photographs on a day back in April.

The woman had attempted to swim across the deep, picturesque pool carrying the small child on her shoulders. The signs of distress were immediate.

“She realized it was too far and asked to be lifted out,” Cantrell told Stars and Stripes in an interview Thursday. “I started noticing her face getting pale. I was like, ‘That’s not good at all.’ I’m like, ‘I think I need to act now.’”

Cantrell dove into the icy water and pulled the woman and her daughter to safety. He told no one about what he had done. His airmen friends marveled at how deep the water was when he went back to his friends.

He estimated it was over 30 feet.

Cantrell walked around the edge of the pool to the falls, he said. A friend snapped a photograph of him. That’s when he saw the mother entering the water with her two small children. Her young boy touched the cold water and turned back.

The mother and daughter began to swim across the pool.

“They’re not anything close; there’s no footing; there’s no anything,” Cantrell said. “That’s how I knew something was going to go wrong.”

After Cantrell pulled the mother and daughter to safety on a rock, his military training kicked in, he said. He stayed with them until the authorities arrived before they weren’t going into shock.

Once Cantrell realized they were OK, he went back to his friends. Before leaving, the woman thanked him one more time. His friends ribbed him, calling him “hero.”

“I don’t think I was a hero,” he said. “Anybody else could have done it.”

The family being saved was the most important thing, he said.
Grads honored in Germany despite pandemic

By Jennifer H. Svan
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Formal commencement and graduation typically an occasion for honoring—but it’s during a pandemic.

More than 50 graduates from the University of Maryland Global Campus Europe received their diplomas Saturday to a chorus of honking vehicles, courtesy of family and friends parked around an outdoor stage set up at Pulaski Park on Vogelweh.

The commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 was to have been in May but was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Graduates and college officials held their ceremony in a display of壮观 and adhering to measures that would adhere to certain restrictions, online [at theNMUSA.org] and visitors must reserve free tickets Call said. When it opens Nov. 11, the museum is opening by about five months, just more than three years since the coronavirus pandemic, just more than three years after the Army broke ground.

The pandemic delayed the planning of Saturday’s ceremony, wondering if it would even happen, given the current resurgence in coronavirus cases in Germany and Europe and restrictions on social gatherings.

But the university — which changed its name from University of Maryland University College last year — sought a way to still allow graduates to walk the stage while adhering to measures that would keep everyone safe, school officials said. The solution was a drive-in movie style commencement, with graduates donning caps, gowns and face masks and seated in cars instead of rows of chairs. When their names scrolled across a digital screen, they took to the stage individually and received their diplomas through an opening in a plexiglass screen.

“The ceremony wrapped up in less than an hour, with only 55 of this year’s 1,162 graduates in Europe in attendance and no guest speaker. Some graduates submitted videos, which were displayed on a large screen. “This will be the shortest and fastest commencement ever,” said Tony Cho, UMGC Europe vice president. “Do buckle up! No pun intended.”

Those who did come said it was important to be able to celebrate their achievement with a ceremony of sorts.

“It’s something that I’ve worked really hard for,” said Jessica Clasen, 29, who lives near Baumholder and earned a bachelor’s degree in English and is working towards her master’s in special education.

Clasen, who served six years in the Air Force and hopes to be a teacher, wore sparkly red earrings and red heels with her gown. “I feel like I deserve to walk and enjoy the moment,” she said.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Peter Mureithi, 46, had his gown in the spring and “everything was set,” he said. “Then they said it was canceled. I was disappointed but I didn’t lose hope,” said Mureithi, an intelligence analyst for U.S. Army Europe who grew up in Kenya and earned a master’s degree in information technology management.

“When the school contacted us and asked if we’d like to do it virtually or if we’d like to walk across the stage, I chose walk across the stage.”

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jordan Scheckells, 28, earned a master’s degree in business administration in 2019 but wanted to graduate with his wife, Queenie May, who finished her MBA a few months after he did.

The waiting paid off: The Scheckells marched across the stage, one after the other, sharing the moment with their 8-month-old son, Eli Michael, and Queenie May’s family, who watched the ceremony.

The National Museum of the United States Army features 41 military aircraft and even test their tank simulator, fly in virtual history. But if we can just reach those visitors through the galleries, that’s the connection there.”

“You can’t tell the entire story, every aspect of the Army’s history. But if we can just reach those visitors through the galleries, that’s the connection there.”

“The pandemic delayed the opening by about five months, Call said. When it opens Nov. 11, ballistics tests and a free ticket system online [at theNMUSA.org] and adhere to certain restrictions, like wearing face masks and social distancing. The museum is also providing styluses to allow visitors to work the plethora of touchscreens throughout the exhibits.

Officials wanted visitors to experience what soldiering was like for troops on the ground throughout the Army’s history. A video inside the museum’s Army Theater brings them into the action in Belgium during World War II. In the La Drang Valley in Vietnam and the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan, placing them into the heart of the battles with a 360-degree screen. The theater shakes as bomb blasts go off and machine gun fire cuts through the air. The exhibits include six dedicated to combat, one that examines the connection between the Army and American society. What are the artifacts that we have here, most of which the Army has held for years but never before shared with the public?

The museum plans to add items from soldiers who were at Iraq’s al Asad Air Base during the Jan. 8 ballistic missile attack by Iran in retaliation for the United States drone strike that killed their top military figure, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Call said she was not certain Thursday what those items would include, but the staff considered the event a critical part of the Army’s recent history.

“We felt it was so important, just like all the artifacts in the exhibit wing … to preserve those items, to get them, to take care of them and to be able to have them available.”

The museum has left room to expand its galleries to include whichever the future holds for the Army, Call said. Paul Morando, who has been the museum’s exhibits chief for about three years, said his team worked hard to ensure everyone who visited would learn from their time in the building.

“You don’t have to be a soldier to be connected to this museum,” he said. “If you never served in the Army, but you can connect to something—a soldier’s story here from the same hometown, and look and see what he or she did for our country, then there’s a connection there.”

The most difficult part, he said, was working within the natural limits in a physical building.

“You can’t tell the entire story, of course, of the history of the Army,” Morando said. “This museum would be five times the size if we incorporated every soldier’s story, every aspect of the Army’s history. But if we can just reach those visitors through the galleries, through the exhibits, through the artifacts that we have here, then we’ve done our job.”

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripeskotown

"I feel like it’s a good way to make them proud, she said of her family.

For Sgt. 1st Class Jason World Turner, a 37-year-old Army medic, marching in a commencement ceremony was something he never thought he would do. After joining the Army right after graduation in 2001 from his home on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota, he deployed to combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan three times. Time to pursue an education was always elusive.

World Turner was among 552 active-duty graduates in UMGC Europe’s class of 2020—about 49% of the class. On Saturday, wearing a stole draped over his gown displaying a colorful hand-sewn medicine wheel, he received his bachelor’s degree in psychology, about three years after he began hitting the books.

“Every single semester I took one or two classes and I just kept plugging away at it,” he said.

Stars and Stripes
Harris commends Black women in 1st speech as VP-elect

By Kathleen Ronayne
Associated Press

Vice president-elect Kamala Harris on Saturday paid tribute to the women, particularly Black women, who have stood up in the face of barriers.

"I want to thank all of you for being an inspiration," she said. "You have been a beacon of light in a time of darkness. You have been a source of strength in a time of uncertainty. You have been a reminder that even in the midst of confusion and chaos, there is always hope."

Harris said she had been "blessed" to have so many women in her life who had "taught me the value of fighting for what you believe in" and "empowered me to speak up for those who may not have a voice.

"I want to thank all of you for being an inspiration," she said. "You have been a beacon of light in a time of darkness. You have been a source of strength in a time of uncertainty. You have been a reminder that even in the midst of confusion and chaos, there is always hope."

Harris said she had been "blessed" to have so many women in her life who had "taught me the value of fighting for what you believe in" and "empowered me to speak up for those who may not have a voice.

She called on Americans to "come together" and "stand up for what is right" by making change at "all levels of government." She said she was "humbled" to be the first Black woman to hold the office of vice president, and she urged Americans to "support" her and her husband, Doug Emhoff, in their efforts to "heal the nation."
Trump spends day refusing to admit his loss

The Washington Post

STERLING, Va. — On Saturday, Donald Trump finally became the one thing he hates the most: a loser.

President Trump had just arrived at his namesake golf course in Virginia on Saturday morning — whizzing past signs blaring “Biden/Harris” and “Good Riddance” — with his Vice President Mike Pence in the passenger seat. "This is a good team," Trump said, referring to the 2020 election results as being fraud. Pence then told his followers, “This isn’t over!” and “Fake news!”

Trump, who then tells his followers, “This isn’t over!” and “Fake news!” and more about helping Trump, was welcomed by several protesters, including one who held a sign that read, “Orange Crush, American Pride.”

That Trump was pummeling drives off a tee box as Biden made the transition from former vice president to president-elect was a fitting coda for a leader who craved the perks and power of the office, but often seemed reluctant to do the job.

The president remained cosseted away at Trump National Golf Club for three more hours, finishing his morning on the links with Kellyanne Conway, Trump’s chief of staff, and his club’s manager, in one of the few situations he could still control to his liking. There, club members shouted, “Great job, Kendra!” — to which Kellyanne Conway replied, “This isn’t over!”

As Trump lined up his shot on the green, two protesters from about 50 feet), supporters offered more words of encouragement: “You can make it!”

“We’ve got a long way to go,” the president said — seeming to refer to the 2020 election results — while offering a thumbs-up to his supporters.

Before Biden was declared the winner, the Trump campaign had released a new advertisement — whizzing past signs that read “Biden/Harris” and “Good Riddance” — with the landscaping business, in view of a crescent moon and stars entertainment shop named “Fantasy Island.” Trump’s personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, offered its own clarification, tweeting: “To clarify, President Trump’s press conference will NOT be held at Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia. It will be held at Four Seasons Total Landscaping — no relation with the hotel.”

Trump’s lawyers did ultimately show up at the right spot, speaking outside the Philadelphia Convention Center on Sunday, a new development in the Riddance — whizzing past signs blaring “Biden/Harris” and “Good Riddance.” Trump’s legal team announced its intention to challenge the election results in court, saying it would be “a long process.”

For his part, Biden pleaded for unity and reconciliation in a televised address Saturday night, saying it is time for Americans to “put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature” and stop Trump’s opponents like enemies.

“Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here now,” he said.

There have been many examples of news organizations declaring Biden the winner. “Otherwise, we can kiss freedom goodbye.”

About two dozen heavily armed men, some wearing camouflage, joined the rally. At the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix, crowds ranging in size from a few dozen to a few thousand — some of them openly carrying guns — decried the news of Joe Biden’s victory after more than three suspense-filled days of vote-counting that put the Democrat over the top. Skirmishes broke out in some cities.

In Atlanta, outside the state Capitol in the longtime Republican state, chants — whizzing past signs blaring “Biden/Harris” and “Good Riddance,” including one who held a sign that read, “Orange Crush, American Pride,” were heard.

One person close to the White House, however, said the efforts in the states were less about actually contesting the election results and more about helping Trump come to terms with his defeat.

“The legal operation is designed for Trump to save face and ultimately give him the ability to say he didn’t lose the election fair and square,” this person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to share details of private discussions. “So we’re going to roll with it.”

Pennsylvania played a crucial role in Biden’s victory. “If we don’t stop this today, it’ll all be over,” Bruce Fields, 66, said of news organizations declaring Biden the winner. “Otherwise, we can kiss freedom goodbye.”

“Great job, Mr. President.” Then, as Trump lined up his shot on the green, two protesters from about 50 feet), supporters offered more words of encouragement: “You can make it!”

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Underscoring the hard feelings on both sides of the nation’s deep political divide, anti-Trump protesters in Atlanta, Las Vegas and New York chanted “Lock him up!” and “Stop the steal,” supporters of the faith. The words were awash with American flags and Trump banners. There was a small black South African flag with the words “Put America First.”

An officer escorted the BLM supporter to a squad car. It was unclear if he had been arrested.
World leaders hope for fresh new start

BY JOE MCDONALD
Associated Press

World leaders on Sunday cheered Joe Biden’s election as U.S. president as a chance to enhance cooperation on climate change, the coronavirus and other problems after four years of President Donald Trump’s rejection of international alliances.

Trump had yet to concede defeat, but Western and Asian allies expressed hope for a fresh start following Trump’s “America First” trade policies, withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and attacks on NATO and the World Health Organization.

In Asia, a region on edge about the strategic ambitions of China’s ruling Communist Party, the elected leaders of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan invoked “shared values” with Washington and expressed hope for closer relations.

“I look forward to working with you to further strengthen the Japan-US Alliance and ensure peace, freedom, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond,” said Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Twitter. President Moon Jae-in of South Korea said he looked forward to working together “for our shared values.”

Word of the victory in Pennsylvania that pushed Barack Obama’s former vice president past the threshold of the 270 Electoral College votes needed to take over the Oval Office spread around the globe, sparking celebrations.

There was no immediate official reaction from Beijing, which is mired in conflicts with the Trump administration over trade, security and technology. But Chinese social media users welcomed the change.

A post on the Sina Weibo microblog service, signed by Geng Teng Xin, said “Congratulations Biden, the old friend of Chinese people.”

After Trump said he won “by a lot,” the Communist Party newspaper People’s Daily responded on Twitter, “HaHa.”

President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan, the self-ruled island Beijing claims as part of its territory, expressed hope to “further our friendship.” Biden had congratulated Tsai on her reelection in January, saying Taiwan is “stronger because of your free and open society.”

Washington has no formal relations with Taiwan, but Trump raised the profile of informal contacts by sending Cabinet officials to the island, an act that irritated Beijing.

There also was no immediate reaction from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was friendly with Trump. Other leaders who supported Trump, including President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, congratulated Biden, indicating they rejected Trump’s claim the election wasn’t over.

Most Western allies welcomed a fresh start with Washington. Many have been dismayed at Trump’s criticisms of decades-old alliances.

“We want to work in our cooperation for a new trans-Atlantic beginning, a New Deal,” said German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Twitter.

Others expressed hope Biden might revive cooperation on health, climate and other issues following Trump’s rejection of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement and pressure on Canada, Mexico, South Korea and other partners to renegotiate trade terms.

“I look forward to working with President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Harris, their administration, and the United States Congress as we tackle the world’s greatest challenges together,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was the target of personal insults by Trump, said on Twitter.

Other leaders who sent congratulations included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who said “times of pessimism are behind us,” French President Emmanuel Macron and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Pedro Pierluisi wins gubernatorial race in Puerto Rico

BY DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico’s pro-statehood New Progressive Party won a mayoral race to become the U.S. territory’s next governor, according to official preliminary results released late Saturday.

Pierluisi won with nearly 33% of votes compared with nearly 32% obtained by Carlos Delgado of the Popular Democratic Party, which supports the current territorial status, with 100% of precincts reporting.

The results come four days after Puerto Rico held general elections, an unusual delay blamed on a record number of early and absentee votes that overwhelmed officials. It’s also the first time that Puerto Rico’s two main parties failed to reach 40% of votes.

“These are times to unite wills and purposes,” Pierluisi said in a statement.

Pierluisi had claimed victory the night of the election and refused to concede, noting that his opponent was leading by a very slim margin and that thousands of votes still had not been counted.

On Saturday, he congratulated Pierluisi: “The island needs consensus, dialogue and convergence so that we can face the great challenges of the future.”

Saturday’s results were released hours after U.S. President-elect Joe Biden won the election on the U.S. mainland, a victory that Pierluisi said would help Puerto Rico finally gain statehood. He congratulated Biden and said he looked forward to working with him and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris “for the benefit of all Puerto Ricans.”

Biden also promised to fight against austerity measures sought by a federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico’s finances amid an economic crisis; accelerate the disbursement of federal funds for hurricane and earthquake reconstruction; and push for equal funding of Medicaid, Medicare and Supplemental Security Income, since Puerto Rico receives less than U.S. states.

Other results released late Saturday included those of a tight race for the mayor of Puerto Rico’s capital. New Progressive Miguel Romero received more than 36% of votes, compared with more than 34% obtained by third-party candidate Manuel Natal of the Citizen Victory Movement. Natal rejected the results and said not all votes have been counted.

Iran urges Biden to renew nuclear deal

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s president called on President-elect Joe Biden to “compensate for past mistakes” and return the U.S. to Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, a state-run news agency reported Sunday.

Hassan Rouhani’s comments mark the highest-level response from Iran to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris clinching the Nov. 3 election.

“Now, an opportunity has come up for the next U.S. administration to compensate for past mistakes and return to the path of complying with international agreements through respect of international norms,” the state-run IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

Under President Donald Trump, tensions between the U.S. and Iran have escalated, reaching a fever pitch earlier this year. One of Trump’s signature foreign policy moves was unilaterally withdrawing the U.S. from Iran’s nuclear deal in 2018, which had seen Tehran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The U.S. has since reimposed punishing sanctions on Iran that have crippled its economy, which was further battered by the coronavirus outbreak. Biden has promised to devolve, in an effort to pressure Europe to find a way around the sanctions, Iran has slowly abandoned the limits of the nuclear deal.

“The people of Iran, though their heroic resistance against the imposed economic war, proved that the U.S. maximum pressure policy was doomed to fail,” Rouhani said. He added Iran “considers constructive engagement with the world as a strategy.”

Also Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that “the world is watching” to see if the new Biden administration would depart from Trump’s approach toward Iran and seek international cooperation.

“Deeds matter most,” Zarif added.
Census takers say they were told to record false info

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Two census takers told The Associated Press that their supervisors pressured them to enter false information into a computer system about homes they had not visited so they could close cases during the waning days of the once-a-decade national headcount.

Maria Arce said her supervisor in Massachusetts offered step-by-step instructions in how to trick the system. She said she felt guilty about lying, but she did not want to disobey her supervisors, who kept repeating that they were under pressure from a regional office in New York to close cases.

“It was all a sham. I felt terrible. I know I was doing something wrong, but they said, ‘No, no, we are going. We have to do this,’” Arce said.

At the time, in mid- to late September, census workers were being told to close to a deadline imposed by President Donald Trump’s administration to finish the count by the end of the month.

Indiana census taker Pam Roberts’ supervisor pressured her to make up answers about households where no one was home.

Roberts agreed to do it for only one day — making up information about about two dozen households before refusing to continue the next day because she believed it was wrong. She said she entered made-up answers while in her car outside the houses since the mobile device used for data entry could track where a person was located.

“That’s not what this is about. If it’s not truthful, how can we use it?” Roberts, who lives in Lafayette, Ind., said in an interview.

Asked about the workers’ statements to the AP, the Census Bureau said it is looking into the allegations, but the agency did not provide further details.

“So far, statisticians have not uncovered anything that raises red flags, Ron Jarmin, the Census Bureau’s deputy director, said Thursday in a blog post.

WASHINGTON — Until six weeks ago, defenders of the Affordable Care Act could take comfort in some simple math. Five Supreme Court justices who had twice preserved the Obama-era health care law remained on the bench and seemed unlikely to dismantle it.

But Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death in mid-September and her replacement by Amy Coney Barrett barely a month later have altered the equation in the third major legal challenge to the Affordable Care Act.

No portion of the ACA is severable from the mandate, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told the court in a written filing. The Republicans are pressing this position even though congressional efforts to repeal the entire law have failed, including in July 2017 when then-Arizona Sen. John McCain delivered a dramatic thumbs-down vote to a repeal effort by fellow Republicans.

Barrett is one of three appointees of President Donald Trump who will be weighing the latest legal attack on the law popularly known as “Obamacare.” Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh are the others. It’s their first time hearing a major case over the health law as justices, although Kavanaugh took part in the first round of suits over it when he was a federal appeals court judge.

Of the other justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor have voted to uphold the law. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas have voted to strike it all down.

The practical effects of the repeal of the tax penalty would threaten coverage for more than 23 million people. It would wipe away protections for people with pre-existing medical conditions, subsidized insurance premiums that make coverage affordable for millions of Americans and an expansion of the Medicaid program that is available to low-income people in most states.

A limited ruling would have little real-world consequence. The case could also be rendered irrelevant if the new Congress were to restore a modest penalty for not buying health insurance.

A decision on the case is expected by late spring.

Without Ginsburg, high court support for health law in doubt

1st woman free-climbs El Capitan’s Golden Gate route in one day

JOSEYNE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Rock climber Emily Harrington has become the first woman, and fourth person, to free-climb the Golden Gate route on Yosemite National Park’s 3,000-foot granite wall in a single day.

While most of the country was focused on the results of the U.S. presidential election early Wednesday, the 34-year-old began to scale El Capitan, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday. She reached the top 21 hours, 13 minutes and 51 seconds later. Only three people — all men — have made the free climb on that route in a day.

Harrington had climbed a particular route on the wall, called Golden Gate, many times, but never in a single day. Nearly a year ago, she endured a scary fall and was taken to the hospital with injuries. She vowed to try again and spent months training in her home gym in Tahoe City, Calif.

“This time, she ascended with the assistance of her boyfriend Adrian Ballinger, a renowned Mount Everest guide, and Alex Honnold, famous for his unprecedented free solo climb of El Capitan. When Harrington reached one of the route’s most difficult sections, her foot slipped and she fell sideways, hitting her head into the granite wall.

“Blood just started pouring down her face, dripping onto me at the belay,” Ballinger told the Chronicle. “We immediately thought her day was done. It was a wild, scary flashback to last year’s fall.”

But after taking an hourlong rest and bandaging her wound, Harrington continued.

“The thing is El Capitan is a journey that I was able to take on with a lot of help. I wouldn’t have been able to do it on my own,” Harrington said.

LOS ANGELES — “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek died at 80.

LOS ANGELES — “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek died Sunday after battling pancreatic cancer for nearly two years. He was 80.

Trebek died at home early Sunday with family and friends surrounding him, “Jeopardy!” studio Sony said in a statement.

Trebek presided over the beloved quiz show for more than 30 years.

He was a master of the format, engaging in friendly banter with contestants and appearing genuinely pleased when they answered correctly.

He was also able to move the game along in a brisk no-nonsense fashion whenever people struggled for answers.

The Canadian-born Trebek was more than qualified for the job, having started his game show career on “Reach for the Top” in his native country.

Moving to the U.S. in 1973, he appeared on “The Wizard of Odds,” “Classic Concentration,” “To Tell the Truth,” “High Rollers,” “The $128,000 Question” and “Double Dare.”

From The Associated Press

"Jeopardy" host Alex Trebek dies at 80

Without Ginsburg, high court support for health law in doubt

1st woman free-climbs El Capitan’s Golden Gate route in one day
Cases surging in nursing homes despite efforts

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite Trump administration efforts to erect a protective shield around nursing homes, coronavirus cases are surging within facilities in states hard hit by the latest onslaught of COVID-19.

An analysis of federal data from 20 states for The Associated Press finds that new weekly cases among residents rose nearly fourfold from the end of May to late October. From 1,083 a week to 4,274. Resident deaths more than doubled, from 318 a week to 699, according to the study by University of Chicago health researchers Rebecca Gorges and Tamara Konetzka.

Equally concerning, weekly cases among nursing home staff in surge states more than quadrupled, from 855 the week ending May 31, to 4,050 the week ending Oct. 25. That rings alarms because infected staffers not yet showing symptoms are seen as the most likely way the virus gets into facilities. Testing staffers test positive, they are sidelined from caring for residents, raising pressures on remaining staff.

The administration has allocated $5 billion to nursing homes, shipped nearly 14,000 fast-test machines with a goal of supplying every facility and tried to shore up stocks of protective equipment. But the data call into question the effectiveness vaccines, Morrison said. — or have completed recruitment

In Fort Dodge, a manufacturing and transportation center in north-central Iowa, Julie Thorson said she knew she was in for a bad week when several employees at the Friendship Haven nursing home tested positive last Monday.

As president of the senior living community, Thorson contacted the county health department.

“They were basically not surprised because they’re seeing it all over the county,” she said. Residents also started testing positive. The facility had 11 new cases among residents, as of Friday.

“I was thinking all night what’s worse, to have it hit and not know what you are getting into, or to prepare, prepare, and prepare, and then have it hit,” she said.

German officials condemn actions of demonstrators

BERLIN — German officials on Sunday condemned the actions of 20,000 people who demonstrated against coronavirus restrictions by jamming together in a Leipzig city square largely without wearing masks, and called for an investigation into how the protest was able to get out of control.

The eastern city had tried to move Saturday’s demonstration to a larger location after calculating only 5,000 people could gather in Augustusplatz plaza and maintain a safe distance from one another.

A court at the last minute overturned the city’s order, however, and the demonstration went ahead.

After it ballooned to more than 20,000 people and authorities determined that coronavirus regulations mandating mask wearing and social distancing weren’t being followed, the crowd was told to disperse. But thousands lingered, some scuffling with reporters and throwing projectiles and fireworks at police.

“What we saw yesterday in Leipzig cannot be justified,” said Justice Minister Christine Lambrecht. “The freedom to demonstrate is not a freedom to use violence or put others at mass risk.”

She called for an investigation into how the situation was able to escalate, a sentiment echoed by many, including opposition parties.

“It cannot be that the state stands by and watches as journalists are attacked doing their work and the majority of the demonstrators clearly ignoring the conditions,” said Konstantin Kuhle of the opposition FDP party.

The demonstration came as Germany finished its first week of “lockdown light,” which brings new restrictions to slow spiking coronavirus cases but also keeps schools and shops open.

A four-week partial shutdown that took effect Nov. 2 closed bars, restaurants, leisure centers and sports facilities and imposed new restrictions on contact with other people. The Robert Koch Institute says any effects from the measures will be seen in two to three weeks.

VA seeks volunteers for phase 3 clinical trials of vaccine

BY PATRICIA KIME
Kaiser Health News

The Department of Veterans Affairs is recruiting 8,000 volunteers for the Phase 3 clinical trials of at least four COVID-19 vaccine candidates at 20 federal medical facilities across the U.S., according to officials. The VA and Operation Warp Speed, the Trump administration’s initiative to fast-track a coronavirus vaccine.

The largely unpublicized effort follows a Department of Defense announcement in September that it has partnered with AstraZeneca to recruit volunteers at five of its medical facilities, which are separate from the VA system.

Both federal departments have long experience in medical research and diverse populations — a crucial component of effectiveness in the clinical trials, said J. Stephen Morrison, senior vice president and director of global health policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a bipartisan think tank in Washington, D.C.

Since active troops are essential to national security, and veterans are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, both departments have a vested interest in supporting the development of safe, effective vaccines, Morrison said.

“On the DOD active service men and women side, it’s a question of making sure they’re ready, they are protected,” Morrison said. “With VA, their population, all elderly and in poor conditions, they could really be suffering if we don’t get a vaccine.”

According to a VA website, of its 20 medical centers involved, 17 would be part of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine trial, while the three others are recruiting — or have completed recruitment — for advanced-stage trials for Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines.

It’s not unusual for the military to participate in multicenter trials for treatments of ailments as diverse as cancer and trauma. Historically, many vaccines have been tested first by the military.

In the general population, clinicians often have difficulty recruiting African Americans and other minorities for medical research, and “the military provides a rich opportunity to find volunteers for those groups,” said retired Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, a doctor and former deputy surgeon general for the Navy.

No service members will be required to participate in the COVID-19 vaccine trials. All volunteers will be paid by the developer.
WASHINGTON — The White House has been hit with a fresh wave of coronavirus infections, an administration official said Saturday, after Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and five other Trump aides received positive tests in the period around Election Day.

Meadows, who tested positive Wednesday, at first told others not to disclose his diagnosis for fear of creating panic, and the White House announced his positive test Saturday only after his diagnosis became public late Friday, the official confirmed that a broader outbreak threatened to create a new crisis in the West Wing just as Meadows and other top aides are trying to help President Donald Trump navigate a bitter loss at the polls to Democrat Joe Biden.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press, said Meadows was isolated and had not been around other aides for several days after receiving his diagnosis.

The White House hit with new outbreak of infections

From wire reports

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has tested negative for the COVID-19 virus after learning he may have been exposed during a meeting to someone tested positive for the coronavirus.

Members of Pritzker’s staff who attended the meeting last Saturday tested negative for the virus, his office said Saturday in a news release. Pritzker had self-isolated Friday while awaiting test results. They were the second negative test results for Pritzker and staff members, after weekly tests Wednesday, according to his office.

Meanwhile, 12,438 newly confirmed and probable cases of the virus and another 76 deaths were reported Saturday by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Kansas

WICHITA — A council member in Kansas’ largest city has tested positive for the coronavirus, forcing the mayor and other council members to quarantine for about two weeks.

Wichita announced council member Brandon Johnson’s positive result Saturday in a tweet.

Johnson, the city’s director of public health and Whipple, members of the City Council and some staff, including city manager Robert Layton, must temporarily stay away from city hall.

“The City continues to strongly urge all Wichita residents and City employees to practice safe social distancing whenever possible. Masks when distancing isn’t possible, limit public exposure and to wash hands frequently,” the City of Wichita said.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Johnson said he had a cough Thursday that worsened Friday, so he went to be tested. He received his results Saturday morning.

Kentucky

LEXINGTON — Kentucky reported 2,162 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday and 17 more deaths as a result of the coronavirus.

The percentage of tests that came back positive over the past seven days stood at 7.17% as of Saturday, the highest positivity rate since May 5, according to a news release from Gov. Andy Beshear.

As of Saturday, 1,129 Kentuckians were hospitalized with the virus, including 289 in intensive care units and 141 on ventilators.

“Since March 6, when COVID-19 was first reported in Kentucky, we have had not this many new cases reported on a Saturday, and sadly we are also reporting 17 more deaths,” Beshear said in a news release. “As Kentuckians, we need to come together right now. We need everyone wearing a mask, following the red zone recommendations and other guidance, like limiting travel and social distancing, so that we can stop this alarming escalation of cases.”

New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico on Saturday for the second day in a row reported nearly 1,300 additional COVID-19 cases and 16 additional deaths.

Officials said there are 1,287 additional cases, a one-day record that was the same number reported Friday. But they said Saturday that 10 of the cases reported Friday had turned out to be duplicates or not lab-confirmed.

With these adjustments and the latest reported cases, the statewide total reached 53,671 with 1,104 deaths active.

State officials warned Thursday that new records would be set over the coming weeks as the rate of active cases remains high.

“The virus doesn’t stop spreading on its own. And it spreads exponentially,” New Mexico Health Secretary Dr. Rafael Rodriguez. “This means we see a whole lot more illness and death in our state unless and until New Mexicans turn it around.”

South Dakota

RAPID CITY — South Dakota continues to amass records as the COVID-19 pandemic surges across the state.

The Rapid City Journal reports that a health officials report for the first time showed more than 500 people hospitalized, 15,000 active cases and deaths continue to climb above 500.

Thirteen more deaths were recorded Saturday. There have been 98 deaths in the first week of November after October set a record with 202 deaths in 31 days. There have been 523 deaths since the pandemic began.

There were 1,317 new cases reported Saturday on 2,493 tests for a positivity rate of 53.6%. There have now been 53,976 cases in the state with 15,050 of those still active.

There are 515 people being treated in hospitals across South Dakota — an increase of 22 since Friday.

Washington

OLYMPIA — Washington set a daily record for new coronavirus cases, with 1,777 new cases announced Saturday, and the state Department of Health warned that COVID-19 cases are spreading in the Puget Sound region.

In a written statement, the health agency said that the high numbers the state has seen over the past week reflect an overall surge that started in mid-September. King, Snohomish and Pierce counties are currently the hot spots in the state, officials said.

“COVID-19 is currently spreading very quickly in Washington state,” said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. “We are very concerned that disease transmission will only grow over the next few weeks with the holidays coming up... We need everyone in Washington state to take action now to stop the spread.”
Ethiopian leader defends military action on Tigray

BY CARA ANNA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Ethiopia’s prime minister has sought to defend a major military action against the country’s defiant Tigray region Sunday, and urged citizens not to target the ethnic Tigrayan people amid fears of civil war.

At least 60 people have been wounded and six killed in one location along the Tigray border alone, Doctors Without Borders said Saturday, and the United Nations warns of a major humanitarian crisis if millions flee all-out fighting or if the Tigray region remains cut off from the world.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tweeted that his military campaign is to bring the Tigray region to abide by Ethiopia’s “rule of law.”

“The government’s law enforcement action in Tigray aims to bring the greedy Mekele junta under the rule of law and maintain the constitutional order. This step will benefit the widest Tigrayans more than anyone else,” Abiy tweeted. “I also urge all Ethiopians to take responsibility for ensuring that Tigrayans do not fall prey to any illegal activity that follows the government’s actions.”

The conflict pits two heavily armed forces against each other in the heart of the strategic but vulnerable Horn of Africa region, and experts worry that neighboring countries, including Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia could be sucked in.

Communications remain largely cut off in Tigray, with airports and roads closed.

The Tigray leader in a letter to the African Union chair, seen by The Associated Press, has warned that Ethiopian forces are preparing to launch a large-scale offensive.

Thai police use water cannons on protesters

BANGKOK — Thai pro-democracy protesters were confronted by riot police and sprayed by water cannons Sunday as they tried to approach Bangkok’s Grand Palace to deliver letters about their political grievances addressed to the country’s king.

The protesters had pushed aside a bus that was serving as a barrier to try to approach the palace, which houses the royal offices. The protesters had met earlier at Bangkok’s Democracy Monument and marched as darkness fell, pushing past an initial thin line of police.

Battle in Kashmir kills 4 soldiers, 3 rebels

SRINAGAR, India — A fierce gunbattle on Sunday left four Indian soldiers and three insurgents dead in Indian-controlled Kashmir, an Indian army official said.

The fighting in Kupwara district started at around 1 a.m. after the Indian paramilitary soldiers spotted the rebels around 2 miles into India’s side of the cease-fire line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, said army spokesperson Col. Rajesh Kalia.

The army rushed troop reinforcements in after the first three hours of exchange of gunfire killed one Indian paramilitary soldier and one rebel, Kalia said.

Azerbaijani leader says forces seized key city

MOSCOW — Azerbaijani forces have taken control of the strategically key city of Shushi in Nagorno-Karabakh where fighting with Armenia has raged for more than a month, the country’s president said Sunday.

In a televised address to the nation, President Iľham Aliyev said “Shusha is ours — Karabakh is ours,” using the Azerbaijani version of the city’s name.

However, Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Ovannisian said on Facebook after Aliyev’s claim that “fighting in Shushi is continuing; wait and believe in our troops.”

Aliyev vowed to continue the fighting until Armenia withdraws from the territory.

From The Associated Press
Associated Press

PURULHA, Guatemala — A strengthening Tropical Storm Eta made landfall in Cuba on Sunday and was aimed at the southern tip of Florida, where a hurricane warning was posted for a storm that has left dozens dead and over 100 missing in Central America, where it hit last week as a major hurricane.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm could become a hurricane before reaching the Florida Keys and it declared hurricane and storm surge warnings for the Keys from Ocean Reef to the Dry Tortugas, including Florida Bay, with the storm expected to reach that area by Monday night or early Tuesday.

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph Sunday morning and it was centered over Cuba about 235 miles south-southeast of Miami.

It was moving toward the north at 14 mph.

Eta hit Cuba even as searchers in Guatemala were still digging for people believed buried by a massive, rain-fueled landslide. Authorities said at least 15 were dead and hundreds were missing in Guatemala, many of them in the landslide in San Cristobal Verapaz.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Saturday for eight counties at the end of the state as Eta approached, urging residents to stock up on supplies.

South Florida started emptying ports and a small number of shelters opened in Miami and the Florida Keys for residents in mobile homes and low lying areas.

 ETA batters Central America, turns toward South Florida

UAE vows to relax laws governing personal freedoms

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates announced on Saturday a major overhaul of the country’s Islamic personal laws, allowing unmarried couples to cohabitate, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalizing so-called “honor killings.”

The broadening of personal freedoms reflects the changing profile of a country that has sought to bill itself as a Westernized destination for tourists, fortune-seekers and businesses despite its Islamic legal code that has previously triggered court cases against foreigners and outrage in their home countries.

The reforms aim to boost the country’s economic and social standing and “consolidate the UAE’s principles of tolerance,” said state-run WAM news agency, which offered only minimal details in the surprise weekend announcement.

The government decrees behind the changes were outlined extensively in state-linked newspaper The National, which did not cite its source.

The changes, which The National said would take immediate effect, also reflect the efforts of the Emirates’ rulers to keep pace with a rapidly changing society at home.
2 people charged in destruction of obelisk

SANTA FE — Two people accused of destroying a monument in New Mexico that had stood at the center of Santa Fe’s historic Plaza for more than 150 years were charged, authorities said.

The Santa Fe Police Department announced that Lily Sage Schiweiter, 33, and Ryan Witt, 29, each face multiple charges including criminal damage to property, criminal trespass and unlawful assembly. Witt was also charged with unauthorized graffiti.

Demonstrators at a rally on Indigenous Peoples Day last month took over the Soldiers’ Monument. They used ropes and chains to pull down the obelisk, which some view as a symbol of the oppression of Native Americans.

2 men charged for courthouse bomb threat

PA JIM THORPE — Pennsyl-

vania authorities said two Carbon County men were allegedly calling in a bomb threat that led to a courthouse evacuation.

According to the Carbon County District Attorney, charges were filed against Jason Bracero and Christopher Ohl in relation to a bomb threat called in Oct. 21 that also resulted in the evacuation of businesses near the courthouse in Jim Thorpe, Pennlive reported.

District Attorney Michael S. Gresek said in a press release that Ohl was scheduled for a urine test at the county’s Adult Probation Office but told a co-worker, Bracero, that he might not pass. Bracero allegedly offered to call in a bomb threat.

Investigators said Ohl gave Bracero the prepaid phone used to call in the threat.

Bracero and Ohl are facing charges of terroristic threats, threats to use weapons of mass destruction, false alarms to agencies of public safety and false reports.

Deputies remove gator from school playground

FL OKEECHOBEE — A Florida school named after Everglades National Park experienced a taste of what the wetlands has to offer when a 40-foot-long shrimp boat went missing.

A man charged with stealing shrimp boat

SC MURRELLS INLET — A South Carolina man was charged with stealing something that rarely goes missing: a 40-foot-long shrimp boat.

Field of Honor

Police officer Kandice Ellis sets up a display at the annual Field of Honor at San Gabriel Park in Georgetown, Texas. The Field of Honor, which is organized by the Rotary Club of Georgetown, includes 1,200 American flags to honor veterans, first responders and members of the medical profession.

Charlie Werner told The Sun News he left his trawler, the Lila Lee, alone for about 15 hours to find it missing from a marina at Murrells Inlet on Halloween. Surveillance video later showed a man hop into the boat before taking off hours earlier in the dark.

Werner worried he might never see the $75,000 boat again, but it was soon found stuck on a sandbar near the inlet. Rough seas and poor handling likely caused the boat to stall, causing it to drift until it ran aground, Werner said.

Three days after finding the boat, the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office issued a wanted poster for Daniel Connor Janowski, 25, who was arrested on a charge of taking the boat. He also was charged with possessing a stolen vehicle that was found in the marina parking lot, reports said.

Werner said his main priority now is getting the Lila Lee off land and back to the marina so he can figure out what needs to be fixed.

Mother faces charge after son arrested again

LA ABBEVILLE — A Louisiana mother faces charges after her son, who was under a court-ordered safety plan due to a shooting incident, was found to once again be involved in a shooting.

Leakesha Levy, 35, of Abbeville, was arrested on charges of felony improper supervision of a minor by a parent, Abbeville Police said in a news release.

Levy is the parent of a juvenile who has an ankle monitor due to a recent shooting incident. The Advertiser reported. While being monitored, the juvenile was found to once again be involved in a shooting incident, police said.

Kid shoots grandma with gun found in church

PA UNIONTOWN — A 10-

year-old accidentally shot his grandmother after getting a gun in a western Pennsylvania church, police said.

According to authorities, the boy obtained the weapon after breaking into a locked box on the Solid Rock Ministry Church.

Police said the child began firing the weapon outside the church while people were inside.

“I don’t think he realized the severity of what he had in his hand and the grandmother was going out to stop him as he was shooting into the church build-

ing and that’s when she got shot,” Uniontown City Police Lt. Tom Kolencik told WTAE-TV.

The grandmother was shot twice and police said she was expected to survive.

Postal carrier arrested with 813 pieces of mail

MO WRIGHT CITY — An eastern Missouri pilot was rescued after his plane became lodged in a tree during a crash.

A Postal carrier arrested with 813 pieces of mail

KMOV reported that Lincoln County Fire and Rescue officials said pilot Mike Fleming, 78, made his way onto a tree branch after crashing in Wright City. More than two hours later, he was lowered to safety in a harness.

“He said he was doing fine but his legs were getting tired,” said Matt Conoyer of Central County Fire and Rescue, who was able to climb up to the stranded pilot.

Fleming said he has been flying since he was a teenager and was trying to land on his private airstrip in front of his home after the engine in his one-seater ultralight plane began to sputter. He tried to clear the trees between him and the runway.

From wire reports
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 Furniture brand
5 Business mag
8 One of TV's Huxtables
12 Brine
14 Get wind of
15 Calculating competitor
16 Exceptional
17 "— a Camera"
18 Moon mission
20 Fancy dances
23 Fed. agents
24 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
25 Brimming
28 Male turkey
29 Bottled spirit?
30 Stately tree
32 Discharge
34 Lady of the haus
35 Operates
36 Existence
37 Honeydew alternative
40 Bond rating
41 Oil cartel
42 Sidewalk material
47 Onion's kin
48 Tied down
49 Tosses in
50 Fourth-yr. students
51 June honorees

DOWN
1 Belief
2 Mauna —
3 "Mangial"
4 Indefinite interval
5 Detail
6 Profit
7 Gooye slapstick missile
8 Seat of power
9 Make well
10 Count
counterpart
11 Layered cookie
13 “Sad to say ...”
16 Outstanding
17 Soccer legend
18 Wager
21 Big fusses

Answer to Previous Puzzle
175x544 S T A R S  A N D  S T R I P E S  F3H I J K L M P A G E 15 Monday, November 9, 2020
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

22 Margarita garnish
23 Chaps
25 Depicts anew
26 Actress Hatcher
27 Panache
29 Cornetist
31 Coffee holder
33 Fissures
34 Dreaded
36 "Coffee Cantata" composer
37 Pop flavor
38 Lacked
39 Feeder filler
40 Pantry pests
43 Not 'neath
44 Notable time
45 Sluggers Williams
46 Mag. staff

Answer to Previous Puzzle

11-9 CRYPTOQUIP

AZDHEKQ  TFARJNHDQR
AQTWHWQX NZKOGAHTD SIZ
XQYOKHXKF SXZDQHEZOD
YQGTDAQY: SJKKHJG THWIIJXQ.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL JUDGES WHO ARE DECENT, MORALLY PRINCIPLED AND JUST? HONORABLE MENSCHEN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals B
Japan’s new Olympic experiment is a risky mistake

By Tae Kim
Bloomberg Opinion

The Tokyo Olympics are a grand experiment that was planned for the future to cover the costs of the 2014 Sochi Olympics, according to one study. But many governments are willing to accept such costs as a means of spurring economic development and raising the profile of local cities and companies.

In addition to the boosterism, Japan had hoped that the 2020 Olympics would re-establish its role as an Asian leader after sporting events were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This was always going to be an expensive proposition. Tokyo’s successful 2013 bid budgeted $7.3 billion for the games. But even after hosting the Summer Olympics in 2020.

Thus, the IOC and the government and various sponsors were reluctant to postpone the games and incur further financial losses. But the pandemic forced their hands. In the spring, the games were moved to 2021, a delay that has so far added some $2.7 billion to what are already thought to be the most expensive summer games in history.

That taxpayers are expected to pick up most of the tab hasn’t exactly endeared the Olympics to the Japanese public. A July poll taken after the games were rescheduled found that one-third of respondents wanted them canceled outright, and slightly more thought they should be postponed again. When asked how the games could be downsized, 44% said they should be held without spectators.

Unfortunately, organizers don’t seem to agree. Even though crowded stadiums have played a key role in spreading COVID — and sports leagues around the world have limited or prohibited spectators as a result — the Olympics is still hoping to pack the stands. In part, it’s the optics: Empty seats have been a source of embarrassment in the past for the IOC. But it’s also a business problem. Tokyo is counting on hundreds of thousands of visitors to fill up its hotel rooms, restaurants and shops next year. By extending the experiment, the Olympic organizers have set a precedent that will probably cost $1.4 billion from tourists and $3.8 billion in added domestic spending.

When the Japanese government and local authorities staged closely monitored baseball games at an outdoor stadium in Yokohama between Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, over three days, spectators were likely to be affected, and testing for social distancing or new regulations or any other attempt to prevent the spread of the virus. This was a small experiment conducted by the government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

If this experiment goes well, the government will be allowed to go forward with the Olympics. But if it doesn’t work, the government may have to consider canceling the event or finding a way to reduce the number of spectators.

The Tokyo Olympics are a grand experiment that was planned for the future. They are a risky mistake that has the potential to spread the virus even more widely. It is critical that the government and local authorities take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure the safety of all those involved.

Tae Kim is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist on technology. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.
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Witch movie for ‘woke’ teens

‘Craft: Legacy’ director updating language of original film, but trying to keep relatable spirit

BY HELENA ANDREWS-DYER
The Washington Post

S

it down and let Zoe Lister-Jones school you for a bit. The 38-year-old writer-director of “The Craft: Legacy,” about a coven of teenage witches poised to upend the patriarchy, talks identity politics, inclusion and woke filmmaking like a rock star professor.

Lister-Jones’ take on the beloved 1996 film “The Craft” will feel familiar in two ways. Like the original, the story line centers on a group of young women who don’t fit in, finding solace in one another (and witchery). And, much like our everyday reality, in the new film, young women are forced to figure out how to navigate a male-dominated world on their own.

“I never thought twice about the story that I wanted to tell,” said Lister-Jones, who felt a fierce connection to the original as a young outsider. In the filmmaker’s “reimagining” (since it’s not technically a remake), now available on demand, the “reimagining” (since it’s not technically a remake), now available on demand, the story is updated, trying to be cautious with their gifts in “The Craft: Legacy.”

All of my childhood was a nightmare, to be honest. … I was bullied from kindergarten through high school. I think that kids are cruel, and their cruelty sort of grows in scale and scope as their hormones start to shift. I was lucky in high school to find a group of people who saw me and accepted me. They were my protectors at a time when I was feeling very isolated.

So, when you first saw the 1996 version of “The Craft,” about a clique of outsider girls who take their power back, was it an ah moment? Like you’d finally found your people on screen?

“The Craft” came out at the apex of my sense of alienation from the world. … To get the wish fulfillment of the weirdos taking vengeance on all of those who were causing them so much pain? Yeah, it was a really important movie to me.

Nearly 25 years later, does the story still feel as relevant?

When it came to me as an adult, it felt so full circle because we’re now at a time in our world when othering is at such a fever pitch. It felt like such a resonant film to re-explore and reimagine.

Do you immediately think you were the right person to tell a new story from “The Craft” universe?

I was excited and terrified, which is sort of the Venn diagram of my life. It was a huge responsibility. I hoped that I could be trusted by the fans to honor the original. And I think the way that I set out to do that from the get-go was to not try to re-create it, but to create a film that could stand on its own.

“Legacy” doesn’t shy away from getting topical. The new coven is more diverse and woke as it battles toxic masculinity. Were you ever hesitant to get so political?

My mom always taught me that the personal is political, and that those two things should be intertwined. The practice of making art is a political practice. So I wasn’t afraid. Those who are made uncomfortable by identity politics — more equity and inclusion — if this film makes them uncomfortable, then I’ve done my job. Those people need to understand that their inconvenience is necessary for progress.

No spoilers, but David Duchovny is the bad guy who, in the film, does Men’s Rights advocacy work. But you never say that specifically on screen. Was that a conscious choice, not to give that movement a voice?

There’s a new world of men’s rights activists that feel more dangerous than they have in the past because their approach is very academic. It’s almost posing as allyship and their arguments can be persuasive to even educated people. The wolf in sheep’s clothing is an amazing archetype in genre films because it’s so psychologically complex.

How so?

For young women especially, I wanted to play on those fears that come at an age when we become hyper-visible to men and very aware of dangers that could potentially lurk around any corner. But we don’t know when we’re paranoid or when to trust our guts. And honestly, that gray area continues throughout our lives.

What is it about witchcraft that popular culture continues to be so fascinated by?

Witches have been emblematic of women’s inherent power and also their natural ability to lead for, like, time immemorial. That power was so threatening to the systems in place that they were hunted. Metaphorically speaking, it’s a history that continues to feel very resonant. It’s a reclamation and a reckoning that is long overdue.

“The Craft: Legacy” director Zoe Lister-Jones says she deeply relates to the film’s messages of inclusion and female empowerment.
Go to the American Football Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedule.

Wednesday’s games

Saturday’s games

**Auto racing**

**DETOUR TIGERS** — Named George Londos behalf of the Tiger Country hitting coach and Chip Hale as third base coach.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Announced additions to their 40-man roster.

**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Agreed to terms with LHP Roy Halladay on a one-year contract.

**FOOTBALL**

**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Activated TE Maxx Williams from injured reserve, Pr Contact Linebacker EJ Manuel and CB Jace Whittaker to the active roster.

**BOSTON CELTICS** — Activated CG Evan Fournier, Signed CB DJ Hall to the active roster.

**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Placed QB Jordan Love on injured reserve, CB AJ Terrell to the active roster.

**BALTimore Ravens** — Activated WR Tyreek Hill to the active roster.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** —Waived DT Sharmar Tucker.

**CHICAGO BEARS** — Activated DB Trevon Diggs to the active roster as COVID-19 replacements.

**Cincinnati Bengals** — Activated LB Jordan Evans from the COVID-19 list.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Placed CB P.J. Williams on injured reserve.

**DETROIT LIONS** — Activated WR Kenny Golladay, CB Darius Slay to the active roster.

**GREEN BAY PACKERS** — Placed LB Matt Milano on injured reserve, CB Tony Brooks-Jonathan to the active roster.

**HoustON TEXANS** — Placed QB Tyrod Taylor to the practice squad.

**LA Rams** — Placed LB Matt LaRoy on injured reserve.

**Los Angeles Chargers** — Activated RB Boston Scott, LDT Jay O'Brien-Espinosa to the active roster.

**MONTREAL CANADIENS** — Activated LW Cole Caufield from reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed LB DeShawn McCloud on injured reserve.

**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — Activated CB Greedy Williams, RB Mark Ingram to the active roster.

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** —Placed LB Anfernee Jennings on injured reserve.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Placed TE Jeremy Sprinkle on reserve/COVID-19 list.

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** — Placed CB Bashaud Breeland on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

**WILMINGTON BLUE WOLVES** — Placed WR Herod Allen from the practice squad to the active roster.

**Tennis**

**Paris Masters**

**Saturday**

At Palais Omnisports Paris-Bercy

Paris

Purse: $8,000,729

Surface: Hardcourt indoor

pectores (men’s)

Men’s Singles

**Ivan Lendl**

**Marat Safin**

**Rafael Nadal**

**Roger Federer**

**Tennis**

**Paris Masters**

**Saturday**

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**Tokyo hosts 1-day gymnastics Meets event that showed to Games might be possible

Tokyo Olympics

**TOKYO** — The good news for the Tokyo Olympics is that Japan on Sunday held a one-day exhibition gymnastics meet in front of several thousand fans with 22 athletes participating from Russia, China, and the United States.

They were joined by eight from Japan.

This marks Japan’s first gymnastics meet since the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee allowed a 14-day quarantine at home and widely were largely penned in their homes for 14 days, with Japan will undergo PCR tests daily in Japan.

The event is the latest in a series of tests that was filled to capacity last week to intended to show that the postponed Tokyo Olympics can open in just under nine months.

But there are more difficult questions that the Olympics must overcome.

Next year’s Games will include 11,000 athletes from 206 nations and territories, all affected differently by COVID-19. Add to this, 4,400 more Paralympians and thousands more officials, VIPs, media, sponsors and who who will also need to enter Japan.

Will tens of thousands of non-Japanese fans be allowed to attend, or will the Games be for only Japanese spectators?

Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee have given few details and concrete plans are not expected until next year when a vaccine and rapid testing might be available to resolve some problems.

Kohei Uchimura, Japan’s three-time Olympic gold medal gymnast, set out the problem very clearly after Sunday’s exhibition.

Unfortunately, 80% of the Japanese don’t believe that the Tokyo Olympics can take place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, speaking after the meet in Japan on a public-address system to fans in the Yoyogi National Stadium. He was also addressing his fellow athletes.

“I know it is natural to think this way,” he added. “But I would like people to change their travel. From: ‘can’t hold the Olympics to how can we do it’?

Uchimura pointed out that many athletes had not been able to practice and may have gone the entire year without any competition.

If the Olympics happen, these will not be Olympics like any other but the rules will be strict. Travel will be limited. And despite all the precautions, some athletes are bound to get COVID-19 and be removed from the competition.

IOC President Thomas Bach and Vice President John Coates have acknowledged this.

Fans entering the stadium, which was the venue for swimming in the 2016 Olympics, had temperatures taken and hands sanitized. Seating was spaced out and everyone wore masks, a standard practice everywhere in Japan. And cheating was not allowed.

“My only problem is my life inside the hotel,” Angelina Melnikova, who won silver at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, said before the meet. “I was surprised that I couldn’t walk freely — even inside the hotel. I wanted to have a tour of Tokyo. But it’s impossible to do that this time. I totally understand.”

Japan is officially spending $12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a government audit last year said it was twice that. Much of that, $5.6 billion, is underwriting $12.6 billion to organize the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, said.

VIPs, media, broadcasters and thousands more officials, judges, pics must overcome.

The Olympics can open in just under nine months.

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### By Jenya Fryer

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — NASCAR will take the checkered flag on its season, one of the longest in professional sports, celebrating its ability to work through the pandemic and close its year.

The season was suspended March 13 after just four of 36 races had been completed. The shutdown lasted 10 weeks, a hectic time in which the industry wasn’t sure it could survive.

Nobody makes any money unless NASCAR runs its races and the sport was desperate to get back to work. NASCAR was one of the first sports to re-open in May, one of the first to get fans back at its events, and used a crammed and overhauled schedule of sellout bheaders and midweek races to get to Sunday’s season finale.

When the Cup champion is crowned at Phoenix Raceway, all three of NASCAR’s national series will have completed their full season.

‘I would suggest this is the single most difficult year that we’ve faced as a sport,’ NASCAR President Steve Phelps said Saturday in the annual state of the sport — held for the first time over Zoom. ‘I believe that we have come through this global pandemic is I think nothing short of remarkable,’ Phelps added. ‘I believe we’re stronger than ever as a sport with the gates open and the garage beyond essential personnel.

‘As of now, as of tomorrow, we’re the only major sport that finished a full season. Certainly proud of that.’

**Phelps**

By Dennis Walsek Jr.

**Associated Press**

Chase Briscoe spun with six laps remaining. It brought out a caution time in which the industry was desperate to get back to work. NASCAR was one of the first sports to re-open in May, one of the first to get fans back at its events, and used a crammed and overhauled schedule of sellout bheaders and midweek races to get to Sunday’s season finale.

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Phelps spent almost a full hour addressing how NASCAR handled the pandemic, the direction the sport is headed and Kevin Harvick’s stunning failure to advance to Sunday’s championship race.

**Phelps**

**Harvick falls short**

NASCAR in 2014 introduced elimination rounds in the playoffs and a winner-take-all final that Harvick won in that debut season. He seemed certain to be headed back to the final four after winning nine races and the regular season title, but he was eliminated last weekend after a mediocre third round of the playoffs.

Phelps noted the system was designed to create excitement and the best team doesn’t always win.

‘I think this system, how the playoff system worked... gave a chance the way that they wanted, which was intense drama and really just this amazing competition,’ Phelps said.

**Chase Briscoe**

**The Daytona 500**

NASCAR is scheduled to open the 2021 season with the Daytona 500 in Florida and Phelps believes spectators will be permitted. NASCAR prides itself on its accessibility and is working on plans to get fans back into the stands for the Daytona 500, and overhauled schedule of sellout bheaders and midweek races to get to Sunday’s season finale.

By Denis Walsek Jr.

Associated Press

As the two took the white flag, Cindric cleared Allgaier and, for position reasons, went high to take the lead. He chose the top lane and overtook Harvick, who had led most of the race. Cindric ran the checkered flag.

The only man who could have predicted such a race was his team owner, Rick Hendrick.

‘I think this system, how the playoff system worked... gave a chance the way that they wanted, which was intense drama and really just this amazing competition,’ Phelps said.

**Cindric wins Xfinity Series title with victory at Phoenix**

By Dennis Walsek Jr.

Associated Press

The New York Jets and quarterback Sam Darnold (14) are off to an 0-8 start.

**Battle for AFC East’s leas**

Skidding Patriots, 0-8 Jets try to turn things around

The New York Jets and quarterback Sam Darnold (14) are off to an 0-8 start.
No. 25 Flames stun Hokies on late FG

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — For those doubting Liberty’s initial foray into the Associated Press national rankings, the Flames took a rather large step Saturday toward validating themselves. Alex Barbir hit a career-long, 51-yard field goal with one second remaining to lift No. 25 Liberty to a 38-35 victory over Virginia Tech.

“To come out with a win, and on that note, it’s insane,” Barbir said. “I’ve been crying so much. It’s unbelievable for me. I had a similar one in high school ... but it couldn’t compare to beating an ACC opponent like Virginia Tech to go 7-0.”

Barbir’s kick punctuated a wild ending for the Flames, who rallied from a 20-14 halftime deficit and moved to 7-0 for the first time in program history.

“You don’t get a lot of wins like this in team sports,” Liberty coach Hugh Freeze said.

The Flames tried multiple laterals on the ensuing kickoff before Liberty tackled William Kakavitsas to end the game, and that set off a crazy celebration by the Flames. Players lingered on the field after the Flames’ victory to end the game, and that lasted for the first time in program history.

“It’s hard to quantify wins that you’ve had that are like that,” Freeze said. “I just know that sitting here today there’s none bigger, and there’s none bigger for our kids and our program and our administration.”

Barbir, who transferred from Maryland in 2017 and was a student at Liberty before coming out for the team this season, had a 59-yard attempt blocked with 8 seconds left, and Virginia Tech’s Zavier Fisher returned it to the end zone for what appeared to be the game-winning field goal for No. 25 Liberty.

But officials ruled that Virginia Tech had called a timeout before the kick.

“I’ve always done this,” Hokies coach Justin Fuente said. “I don’t like ever letting the kicker get a free swing at it. I guess I waited too long. It’s on me.”

The Flames then elected to go for it on fourth-and-6 from the Virginia Tech 41 and Malik Willis found CJ Yarbrough for an 8-yard gain with five seconds left to set up Barbir’s winning kick.

Willis led Liberty, which won its eighth straight game going back to last season. He threw for 217 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 109 yards and a score.

Hendon Hooker paced the Hokies, throwing for 217 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 156 yards and a touchdown.

The takeaway

Liberty: The Flames masterfully controlled the clock in this game, holding the ball for more than 37 minutes to win time of possession for the sixth time in seven games.

“We knew we were going to have trouble stopping them and we tried to slow the game down,” Freeze said.

Virginia Tech: This loss could linger for a while for the Hokies, who continue to struggle on defense, allowing at least 196 yards running in four of their past five games.

Poll implications

After making its first appearance in the Associated Press national poll, Liberty probably will move up a few spots.

Willis the real deal

Willis moved to 6-0 as a starting quarterback, and for the fourth time in six starts finished with more than 300 yards of offense. He accounted for 325 yards and four touchdowns.

“We can’t worry about any logos being older than our logo because that’s what it comes down to in our minds,” Willis said. “I feel like we get overlooked sometimes because it is our first couple years in FBS football, first two years. You don’t really know what you’re going to get out of us.”

Hurtting Hokies

Virginia Tech played the game without leading receiver James Christian, who was out with an undisclosed injury, and played nearly all of it without tailback Khalil Herbert, who re-aggravated a hamstring injury on the opening kickoff. Herbert ranked fourth nationally at 133.8 yards rushing per game.

Also, lineman Rayshard Ashby went down with an injury in the second quarter and did not return. Without its senior leader, the Hokies’ defense allowed 269 yards in the second half.
By Ralph D. Russo  
Associated Press

Conventional wisdom heading into this college football season has been that there is unlikely to be much coaching turnover. Between pandemic-related revenue losses and the complications of trying to evaluate performance under such unusual circumstances, the coaching carousel figured to be quiet.

The Michigan started 1-2 in its sixth season under coach Jim Harbaugh. The 23rd-ranked Wolverines — yes, they were still ranked — lost 38-21 at No. 3 Indiana on Saturday, snapping a 24-game winning streak against the Hoosiers that dated to 1987.

Harbaugh has only one more season left after this on his original contract, which has made him one of the highest-paid head coaches in college football.

The khaki-clad former Michigan quarterback back to Ann Arbor as a savior, made the Wolverines better, became a content machine for sports media and lost all five games vs. Ohio State. Whatever shortcomings Harbaugh has had at Michigan, his teams have never won fewer than eight regular-season games and rarely lost to the opponents Michigan is supposed to beat.

The Wolverines are supposed to beat the Hoosiers. Michigan is supposed to beat a Michigan State team that has now sandwiched losses to Rutgers and Iowa (49-7) around a victory at the Big House.

“You’re playing good teams every week,” Harbaugh said. “We’ve got to get there fast.”

The Big Ten is such a mess there is probably a path to a respectable season for the Wolverines, but it’s pretty clear the program is trending in the wrong direction.

Firing Harbaugh after a truncated and odd season does not seem like the Michigan way. The more interesting question at this point: Does Harbaugh want to do this anymore? His contract situation is unheard of in college football, where schools are more likely to rush into a bad extension than let a winning coach get close to walk year.

It’s difficult to forecast where this could be going, but a scenario in which Harbaugh decides he has done all he can do with the job and moves on without hurting the school financially seems plausible.

If the Wolverines job opens up, it is liable to knock over a few dominoes.

Is an Ohio State man what Michigan needs? Former Buckeyes player and assistant coach Luke Fickell has No. 6 Cincinnati looking like a legitimate playoff contender. He turned down the Michigan State job when it opened unusually late in the cycle.

The better question is: Would Fickell betray his roots to coach the School up North? What has become apparent is the coronavirus pandemic is not going to cause the coaching carousel to come to a halt.

Already Southern Mississippi and Utah State — as of Saturday — are in the market.

Things are not trending in a good direction for Derek Mason at Vanderbilt. Same goes for South Carolina’s Will Muschamp.

Another one to keep an eye on is Virginia Tech. Justin Fuente’s dalliance with Baylor after last season did not sit well in Blacksburg.

Virginia Tech is 4-3 after Fuente, and the Hokies didn’t help and the Irish and Virginia Tech. Justin Fuente’s dalliance with Baylor after last season did not sit well in Blacksburg.

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Another one to keep an ey
Indiana quarterback Michael Penix Jr. (9) is tripped up by Michigan defensive lineman Christopher Hinton (15) Saturday in Bloomington, Ind. Indiana won 38-21 as Penix threw three touchdown passes.

No. 13 Indiana ends its 33-year drought, downs No. 23 Michigan

BY MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — After the postgame party was over, after Indiana fans chanted “We want Bamali!” and coach Tom Allen went crowd-surfing in the Hoosiers’ locker room again, Michael Penix Jr. started looking ahead.

Penix and company want more — much more.

Penix passed for 342 yards and a career-high three touchdowns, and No. 13 Indiana beat No. 23 Michigan 38-21 on Saturday for its first victory against the Wolverines in 33 years.

“When we play a great team like that, we have to make sure we play great football. We did that,” he said. “But it’s just the beginning because we still have some more games to follow up on.”

With a chunk play here, a free play there and a few dinks and dump throws thrown in to keep drives alive, Penix helped the Hoosiers snap a 24-game losing streak in the series — tied for the longest active skid in the Football Bowl Subdivision. It was the Hoosiers’ first win against the Wolverines since Oct. 24, 1987, just their second in 41 games and only the second in the 21 games played at Memorial Stadium.

“I was a senior in high school the last time we beat Michigan and I’m 50 years old, so that’s not something that happened yesterday,” a hoarse Allen said. “I remember sitting here a few years ago when we lost in overtime to second straight game — turning up the pressure on coach Jim Harbaugh in his sixth season at the school. Michigan doesn’t have a top-15 road win since beating Notre Dame in 2006.

“I’m still very excited,” Milton said. “As I have said multiple times, I love this team. Very talented. They play extremely hard.”

They just made too many mistakes — and the Hoosiers took full advantage.

Indiana’s Stevie Scott III ran for 97 yards and two second-half scores. Ty Fryfogle caught seven passes for 212 yards. They just made too many mistakes — and the Hoosiers took full advantage.

Michigan and that one hurt. I was just determined we were going to get this done.”

Indiana (3-0) earned its fourth consecutive Big Ten win. If it matches the school record next week at Michigan State, it could set up a showdown between the East Division’s only unbeaten teams Nov. 21 at No. 3 Ohio State.

Joe Milton threw for 344 yards and three touchdowns, but the Wolverines (1-2) dropped their second in the 21 games played at Lewis Cine’s crushing hit over the middle. Cine was ejected for targeting, adding to Georgia’s already-thin defense.

The Bulldogs were without nose tackle Jordan Davis (elbow), safety Richard LeCounte (motorcycle accident) and defensive tackle Julian Rochester (knee) to start the game.

This was Mullen’s first call for a top-15 road win since beating Alabama 38-21 in the Southeastern Conference Championship — it was Mullen’s most significant victory in three years in Gainesville and now has a stranglehold on the SEC’s East Division.

The Bulldogs (4-2), who entered the game as 3½-point favorites, were likely eliminated from College Football Playoff consideration and probably have a quarterback competition moving forward.

The Gators, meanwhile, have a Heisman Trophy contender.

Source: Associated Press, ESPN.com

24

Consecutive losses for Indiana to Michigan prior to the Hoosiers’ 38-21 win Saturday, tied for the longest streak in the FBS.

5,168

Days since Michigan last beat a top-15 ranked team on the road, when it won 47-21 at Notre Dame on Sept. 16, 2006.
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — When Clemson's desperate attempt to convert a fourth-and-forever ended in a scrum, Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book tossed his helmet as he sprinted onto the field to celebrate with teammates.

In seconds, thousands of fans joined in, rushing the field for a postgame party in a pandemic that most definitely did not meet the CDC's social-distancing guidelines.

"When fans stormed the field, it was fun," Book said.

Kyren Williams put the Irish ahead with a 3-yard touchdown run in the second overtime and No. 4 Notre Dame shut down top-ranked Clemson with a couple of sacks to seal a 47-40 win Saturday night.

The first victory over a No. 1 in 27 years for the Fighting Irish can be added to the list of streak-breakers in Notre Dame history: Catholics vs. Convicts in 1988 snapped Miami's 36-game regular-season winning streak and the shutout of Oklahoma in 1957 broke the Sooners's record 47-game roll.

Clemson (7-1, 6-1) had won 36 straight regular-season games and had not lost to an Atlantic Coast Conference team since 2017. The Fighting Irish (7-0, 6-0), playing in the ACC only because of the pandemic, brought them all to a halt.

"No matter how old I am, I'll remember this one forever," Book said.

Who knows where this victory should rank in Notre Dame lore, but considering the setting and this weird pandemic-altered season it is probably its most...