Biden makes historic pick

Kamala Harris becomes first Black woman chosen as running mate

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Joe Biden named California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate, making history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party’s presidential ticket and acknowledging the vital role Black voters will play in his bid to defeat President Donald Trump.

In choosing Harris, Biden embraced a former rival from the Democratic primary who is familiar with the unique rigor of a national campaign. The 55-year-old first-term senator, who is also of South Asian descent, is one of the party’s most prominent figures. She quickly became a top contender for the No. 2 spot after her own White House campaign ended.

She was scheduled to appear with Biden for the first time as his running mate at an event Wednesday near his home in Wilmington, Del.

In announcing the pick Tuesday, Biden called Harris a “fearless fighter for the little guy, and one of the country’s finest public servants.”

SEE PICK ON PAGE 6

Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., seen in Las Vegas in October, is the first woman of color selected for a major party’s presidential ticket.

John Locher/AP

Ex-VA official says residents of veterans homes ‘left behind’ during pandemic

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—When Linda Schwartz first heard about coronavirus outbreaks killing residents of veterans homes in multiple states, she wanted to dig more deeply.

Schwartz was the longtime commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. She served as an assistant secretary of the VA under former President Barack Obama, leading the VA’s policy and planning initiatives. She’s also a Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force for nearly 20 years, retiring in 1986 after she was injured in an aircraft accident.

When she watched the news this spring about veterans dying alone in nursing homes, Schwartz saw herself and her family.

“For many Vietnam War veterans, it was like we were back in Vietnam again and the same thing is happening — we’re being left behind,” Schwartz said.

Under the direction of Vietnam Veterans of America, she assembled a committee to investigate what had gone wrong. What they found was startling: a lack of transparency about the number of coronavirus deaths at veterans homes, and a VA leadership team that shirked responsibility for the facilities.

The committee assembled its findings and recommendations into a 16-page report that will be shared with members of Congress.

The main takeaway, Schwartz said, was that the VA should be more involved with veterans homes to ensure they’re in good condition. In the case of the coronavirus pandemic, better collaboration could’ve saved lives, she said.

SEE HOMES ON PAGE 10
Shake Shack shrugs off trade war, opens in Beijing

Associated Press

BEIJING — Antagonisms between China and the United States didn’t stop Beijing’s burger lovers from standing in line for hours for a bite of Shake Shack’s snacks.

The New York burger brand opened its first restaurant in the Chinese capital on Wednesday in Beijing’s TaiKoo Li, a shopping area popular among young people.

Shake Shack opened its first restaurant in mainland China in Shanghai last year.

Nearly 200 customers wound around the Beijing restaurant ahead of its 10:30 a.m. opening.

Yang Fan, 18, said she got there at around 6 a.m. and was first in line, keen to enjoy an experience she first had while visiting the U.S. a few years ago.

“So when I heard about Shake Shack to open a restaurant in Beijing, I was very excited. I came very early to queue up,” she said.

Shake Shack broke ground in the capital city at a time when relations between China and the U.S. are at their worst in decades, amid disagreements over trade, Hong Kong, human rights and Beijing’s claims to territory in the South China Sea.

For Yang and others, all that took a backseat to American-style cheeseburgers, hot dogs, fries and ice-cold beverages.

“Although we are Chinese, we should not discriminate against U.S. brands, because it (government-level tensions) have nothing to do with its people,” she said.

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

EXCHANGE RATES

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INTEREST RATES

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Note: Commercial rates and military rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. The rate is that provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies, which are represented in dollars-to-pounds, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euros.

Thursday, August 13, 2020
Army begins second round of green uniform rollout

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army this month will distribute its World War II-inspired green service uniforms to drill sergeants at installations hosting basic training as it begins its second round of the phased introduction, service officials said Tuesday.

By March, nearly all soldiers stationed worldwide should have the option to purchase the Army Green Service Uniform, said Army Col. Stephen Thomas, a project manager who led the Army’s development of the uniforms for Program Executive Officer Soldier. The Army greens — modeled after the popular “pinks and greens” uniform worn by officers during World War II — will slowly replace the blue Army Service Uniform as soldiers’ daily business wear, Thomas said. It will become mandatory in 2027.

Recruiting students at Fort Knox, Kentucky’s Recruiting and Retention College received the uniform last month, and hundreds of soldiers with the Army Band and its 3rd Infantry Regiment, the ceremonial unit based in Arlington, Va., known as the Old Guard, have also received it.

Some high-profile general officers and senior enlisted soldiers have been donning the new look around the Pentagon, during hearings on Capitol Hill and in other public appearances, including those conducted virtually — for several months.

Thomas said the feedback on the uniform he has received from soldiers has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Let me tell you, the Army is ready for this uniform,” Thomas told reporters in a phone call Tuesday. “I get constant positive feedback on the uniform’s appearance, and the next question I get after they say how good it looks is, ‘When can I get it?’ The answer to that question, at least to some extent, remains to be determined, depending on a given soldier’s job and home station.

Drill sergeants for Basic Combat Training and One-Station Unit Training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Jackson in South Carolina and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri will be issued the Army greens in the coming weeks.

By December, the Army plans to begin issuing the new uniforms to incoming recruits and to recruiters spread out across the country, Thomas said. It should be available for purchase in Army and Air Force Exchanges at all posts by spring, starting early next year at installations within the continental United States and then those in Hawaii, Alaska and overseas, he said.

Early adopters of the new uniform will pay more for it. The standard uniform now costs about $500, said Daniel Koglin, a military clothing manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. That does not include any optional items available to soldiers, including the so-called “Ike” jacket, inspired by the cropped jacket made iconic by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower during World War II.

Thomas said over time the cost of the uniform will decrease as the Army ramps up production. Enlisted soldiers, he said, are encouraged to use their annual clothing replacement allotment to offset the cost of the new uniform. Officers will have to pay for it out of pocket.

Ultimately, the Army intends for the greens, or AGSUs, to become the standard everyday uniform for most soldiers working in an office-like setting. It will be required Oct. 1, 2027. The blue Army Service Uniform at that time will become standard for more formal occasions.

Thomas said the AGSUs were meant to last at least six years, as opposed to the four years the blue uniform is intended to be worn. They are also more form-fitting, especially for women.

For the first time in the Army’s history, Thomas said, the service took input from an all-female panel in designing the version of the uniform for women. Among the suggestions that group made were to make pants standard for female soldiers, as opposed to skirts.

“We want all of us, as soldiers, to look the same,” he said of their recommendation. “I thought that was pretty profound for all-female board to come up with that decision.”

Public memorial for Spc. Vanessa Guillen set for Friday

AUSTIN, Texas — An eight-hour public memorial service in honor of slain Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen will take place Friday at the Houston high school soccer field where she competed as a student just over two years ago.

Hundreds are expected to pay their condolences to 20-year-old Guillen, who was killed by a fellow soldier at Fort Hood, Texas, on April 22. Her burned and dismembered body was found more than two months later buried near the Leon River in Bell County, about 20 miles from the central Texas Army base.

The memorial begins at noon at Cesar E. Chavez High School soccer field, said Natalie Khawam, attorney for the Guillen family. The event will include a Catholic memorial service, speakers and visitation.

It will end at 8 p.m.

The soccer field is a place where “Vanessa and her friends shared countless memories playing together throughout high school and beyond,” according to a news release about the service. Those attending in person are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

A live broadcast of the service will be available on the Find Vanessa Guillen Facebook page.

A private funeral for the Guillen family is scheduled for Saturday, Khawam said. She will be buried in an elaborately decorated casket donated to the family. It features the flags of Mexico and America, and the Virgin of Guadalupe.

The Texas Rangers delivered Guillen’s remains to an area funeral home Monday, Khawam said. During a visit to the White House last month, the Guillen family said they had faced delays in receiving the soldier’s body because of the ongoing criminal investigation and asked President Donald Trump to help expedite the process.

He followed through with that, Khawam said.

“We’re grateful that President Trump has expedited Vanessa’s remains to be with her family so they can properly bury her this Saturday in her hometown of Houston,” Khawam said on behalf of the Guillen family.

“We appreciate all the love, support and prayers we received through this very difficult process.”

On April 22, Guillen did not respond to her family’s calls and texts. After a highly publicized search, Guillen’s remains were found June 30. That day the soldier accused of killing Guillen, Spc. Aaron Robinson, 20, “absconded” from the base, where he had been confined to the barracks, according to federal court documents. When confronted by local law enforcement, Robinson shot himself in the head and died.

His girlfriend and alleged accomplice in mutilating Guillen’s body, Cecily Aguilar, 22, was detained on federal charges for tampering with evidence.

Guillen’s family has said that before her death, the soldier told her mother and sister she faced sexual harassment at work. Those claims, as well as demands from Congress and the public that the Army review its handling of Guillen’s disappearance, have led to three investigations into the base’s command climate, culture and implementation of the Army’s sexual harassment and assault program. The criminal investigation into Guillen’s disappearance is ongoing.

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. service member died Tuesday from a noncombat-related incident in Bahrain, Marine Corps Forces Pacific announced in a statement later that day.

The service member, whose name and service branch were not revealed in the statement, was assigned to the Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

“The service member’s remains are in the process of being returned to the United States,” the statement said. “The U.S. Marine Corps and Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the circumstances of the death.”

The identity will be revealed 24 hours after next-of-kin notification, it added.

The Manama-based task force is charged with “coordinating crisis response capabilities and positioning Navy and Marine Corps forces throughout [U.S. Central Command’s area of re- sponsibility] to ensure command and control of forces at sea, from the sea and ashore,” according to the Marines.

Bahrain-based US service member dies in noncombat incident

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

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Marines’ Ospreys fill need in debut at Saber Junction

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOERH, Germany — U.S. Marines are showcasing the Corps’ aviation strengths as they take part in the annual Army-led Saber Junction exercise, being held most of this month in Bavaria.

The Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa 20.2 flew at least three MV-22 Ospreys more than 1,200 miles from Moron in Spain to Grafenwoehr training area for the exercise, which began Aug. 3 and runs until the end of the month.

The Marines are thought to be taking part in Saber Junction for the first time, said Maj. Christopher Bradley, spokesman for the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which has two battalions at Grafenwoehr.

“We are here to conduct joint training with the Army that will highlight our aviation assets and afford us the opportunity to train,” said Marine Osprey pilot Capt. Elijah Smith.

“The Osprey can take off and land vertically and has the range of an airplane, he said.

“Ospreys allow the Army to ‘manage infrastructure in a different way and to respond in contingency operations,’” said Capt. Ryan Lee, Company Commander for the 173rd Airborne Brigade’s Battle Company.

“We don’t have any rotary wing aircraft organic to the 173rd,” said Lee. “These MV-22s can go faster, farther and have the same ability to use helicopter landing zones, which gives us more options in terms of building combat power.”

The exercise, which this year involves some 4,000 troops from nine countries, got underway days after Defense Secretary Mark Esper outlined which bases in Germany the U.S. military would go, and how many troops would be withdrawn from, where they be closed.

“We are in this together,” said Marine Osprey pilot Capt. Stephen Salazar.

Soldiers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade prepare to be transported on Marine MV-22 Ospreys in Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Monday during Exercise Saber Junction. The Marines flew at least three Ospreys around 1,200 miles from Moron in Spain to Grafenwoehr for the exercise.

U.S., while the rest will be redeployed elsewhere in Europe, Esper said.

The realignment would help to deter Russian aggression in Europe, strengthen NATO, reassure allies and improve flexibility of military forces in the region, he said.

In addition to the U.S., the 173rd Airborne Brigade prepares to be transported on Marine MV-22 Ospreys in Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Monday during Exercise Saber Junction. The Marines flew at least three Ospreys around 1,200 miles from Moron in Spain to Grafenwoehr for the exercise.

In addition to the U.S., the troops participating in this year’s Saber Junction are from Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania and Ukraine.

Saber Junction is set to end Aug. 27.

Immanuel.Johnson.StarsAndStripes.com

US military delivers food, medical aid to Beirut

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. military has delivered some 260 tons of humanitarian aid to Lebanon since an explosion last week damaged much of the capital city and left more than 200 people dead or missing.

U.S. Air Forces Central Command and Air Mobility Command delivered more than a half-million pounds of food, water and medical supplies in four days since Thursday, when the first C-17 transports brought 11 pallets of aid from Qatar to Lebanon following the Aug. 4 explosion, the military said.

Also on Tuesday, U.S. soldiers and airmen in Europe helped deliver about 12,000 pounds of emergency medical kits to Beirut via Ramstein Air Base, U.S. Army Europe said in a statement.

The kits are “designed to help local hospitals address critical medical needs,” UNSACE said.

International donors have pledged some $300 million in aid after the blast that wounded some 6,000 people, overwhelming hospitals in the capital.

The explosion, which rattled windows more than 150 miles away on Cyprus, dug a 460-foot crater at the port, leveled surrounding buildings and left some 300,000 residents homeless.

Hospitals had already been struggling to pay staff and secure medical supplies before the blast, as the country faced the worst economic crisis in its history, following the collapse of its government in October and the spread of COVID-19 this year, a Congressional Research Service report said last week.

The extensive damage at the port, including a grain silo and other food storage facilities, is likely to exacerbate the crisis, analysts say.

The blast is believed to have been caused by a fire that ignited a store of about 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been left in a port warehouse for several years, despite repeated warnings about the danger.

Economic losses were estimated up to $15 billion, The Associated Press reported. In a speech on Monday, Prime Minister Hassan Diab said he and his government were stepping down, following weekend clashes between security forces and demonstrators.

The U.S. last week said it would send $17 million in emergency aid to Lebanon on top of more than $400 million provided since September.

As the largest provider of development, humanitarian and security assistance to the country, the U.S. also has in place measures meant to prevent aid funds from being transferred to Hezbollah, an Iran-backed political party that the U.S. has sanctioned as a foreign terrorist organization.

After the initial shipment of supplies from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea said in a video statement that some 30,000 Meals, Ready to Eat and other assistance would be distributed through “our trusted partner,” the Lebanese Armed Forces.

The U.S. works closely with the country’s military, which it views as a counter to Hezbollah. It has provided more than $2 billion in aid to the armed forces since 2006.

Since the initial aid delivery, more supplies were sent from Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar and Al Salam Air Base in Kuwait. AWCENT said this week in a video.

“U.S. Central Command will continue to work with the Lebanese Armed Forces, U.S. Embassy in Beirut and (U.S. Agency for International Development) to provide support to the Lebanese people,” the AWCENT video said.

“We are in this together.”

garland.chad@stripes.com
TWITTER: @chadgarland

Members of the 721st Aerial Port Squadron load relief supplies at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Tuesday for transport to Lebanon.

JUSTIN PARSONS/U.S. Air Force

Chad Garland/garland.chad@stripes.com
TWITTER: @chadgarland

Members of the 721st Aerial Port Squadron load relief supplies at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Tuesday for transport to Lebanon.

JUSTIN PARSONS/U.S. Air Force
By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban negotiators are likely to oppose any proposal for the U.S. to establish a lasting counterterrorism presence in Afghanistan during upcoming peace talks with the government in Kabul, analysts say.

While President Donald Trump has often called for a troop withdrawal, he also said the U.S. is “going to always have a presence” in Afghanistan for counterterrorism in an interview on Fox News radio last fall. Trump envisions the Taliban helping the U.S. fight Islamic State, he said in a White House press briefing in February.

Some lawmakers, including Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, also have proposed leaving such a residual U.S. force to prevent the country being used again as a launchpad for global terrorism. But any remaining foreign presence is a nonstarter among Taliban members, said Andrew Watkins, the International Crisis Group, who released a report Tuesday on the group’s internal views.

“Members of the Taliban we spoke to, at all levels of the organization, in all parts of the country, said this was a non-negotiable issue, that there cannot be a Western footprint,” said Watkins, the Brussels-based think tank’s senior analyst for Afghanistan.

The report, based on interviews with Taliban, Afghan and Western officials over several years, comes ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations expected to begin after the government’s representatives depart for Qatar on Thursday. The initial talks are expected to review terms for a cease-fire.

The U.S.’s promised withdrawal of all American and allied forces by the middle of next year isn’t contingent on the success of the talks, but on whether the Taliban break ties with al-Qaida and block such terrorist groups from using Afghan soil to recruit, raise funds or launch attacks.

The U.S. already has fewer than 10,000 soldiers in the country, and both Trump and Defense Secretary Mark Esper have said recently that plans call for that number to drop below 5,000 by Election Day.

So far there is little indication that the hard-line Islamist insurgents have distanced themselves from al-Qaida.

Lawmakers in Washington have questioned how the U.S. plans to ensure the group complies with the peace terms after foreign troops leave. Military planners and analysts have suggested a continuing presence of mostly special operations.

“The right answer is to reduce U.S. troops strength, but maintain sufficient forces to prevent a resurgence of terrorist activities,” said James Stavridis, a retired admiral who oversaw operations in Afghanistan as NATO’s supreme allied commander from 2009 to 2013.

That would require about 5% of the 150,000-troop force Stavridis commanded at the height of the war, he said.

Another national security expert, Kamran Bokhari, said at least 4,000 troops, intelligence officials and contractors are required for effective counterterrorism operations.

But Taliban leadership would have a hard time selling the notion to the rank-and-file, said Bokhari, of the Washington-based Center for Global Policy. It would require major concessions, he said.

“Do you compromise and not look like you caved in?” Bokhari asked. “They’re going to want something really big in exchange, like changing the [Afghan] constitution.”

Even if a U.S. force were to remain, the prospect of cooperation with the Taliban raises doubts, Bokhari said.

“It’s not easy to go from shoot- ing people to saying, ‘Let’s all go fight [Islamic State-Khorasan] and al-Qaida and the other foreign fighters,’” Bokhari said.

The Taliban faces being viewed as an international pariah like it was in the 1990s if it can’t convince other nations that they’re serious about fighting terrorist groups, said Omar Samad, a former Afghan ambassador and government adviser.

“Part of the burden is on the Taliban to prove themselves worthy of being part of a future counterterrorism setup,” said Samad, who is now with the Washington-based Atlantic Council. “And part of the burden is on the Americans to hold their feet to the fire.”

FBI probes shooting of military helicopter during training in Va.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating the shooting of a military helicopter during a training mission this week in northern Virginia, injuring one crew member who was aboard, officials said Wednesday.

The Air Force helicopter was flying over Middleburg on Monday when it was shot from the ground nearby, according to authorities. The helicopter made an emergency landing at the Manassas Regional Airport, and federal agents were called to the scene to investigate, the FBI said in a statement.

The crew members aboard the UH-1N Huey helicopter, assigned to the 1st Helicopter Squadron at Joint Base Andrews, were on a routine training mission when the helicopter was struck by a bullet, the Air Force said in a statement. The helicopter was about 10 miles northwest of the airport, near Middleburg, and was flying about 1,000 feet above the ground when it was hit, according to officials.

One crew member in the helicopter was injured but has since been treated and released from the hospital, according to authorities. The initial findings of the investigation show that the helicopter was struck by a bullet, causing some damage to the aircraft, though it landed safely, the Air Force said.

The squad transports senior military and civilian leaders, along with high-ranking dignitaries, and also performs emergency medical evacuations.

Agents from the FBI’s field office in Washington and from the bureau’s evidence response team were called to the airport after the shooting Monday. The FBI said it was working alongside other law enforcement agencies, including the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, in order “to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.”
Harris selection as VP resonates with Black women

BY KAT STAFFORD
Associated Press

DETROIT — China Cochran met Kamala Harris at a campaign event in Detroit last year and was swept away by her ambition, charisma and leadership. She hopes the vice presidential pick will advance in politics.

So when Joe Biden named Harris on Tuesday as his running mate — making her the first Black woman on a major party’s presidential ticket — Cochran wasn’t just struck by the history. It represented a full-circle moment for Black women, who for generations have fought for their voices to be heard and political aspirations recognized.

“It tells Black girls that they can be president,” said Cochran, who’s rarely run for state representative in Michigan. “If you look back at Shirley Chisholm, she ran as a Black woman and led at this moment. I think it’s important for us to look at that and see other young women of color rise up in a way that they can see their dreams and really make change in our world.”

Harris’ selection is historic in many ways. It also marks the first time a person of Asian descent is on the presidential ticket.

Born to a Jamaican father and Indian mother, she often speaks of her deep bond with her late mother, whom she has called her single biggest influence.

Harris’ boundary-breaking potential serves as an affirmation of the growing power of voters of color, according to nearly a dozen interviews with political strategists, potential voters and activists.

“Joe Biden understood this historic moment required a tough, smart and respected public servant,” said Donna Brazile, who managed Al Gore’s campaign in 2000 and served as Democratic National Committee chair in 2016.

Black women in particular helped rescue Biden’s campaign earlier this year by delivering a resounding victory in the South Carolina primary, powering him to the Democratic nomination.

As he prepares for the general election, Biden is trying to recreate the multi-racial and cross-generational coalition that twice sent Barack Obama to the White House.

That will hinge on Black voters in battleground states like Michigan to turn out in force in November.

“We’ve seen from an electoral process what happens if we don’t vote, that can mean the difference between winning and losing a state,” said Karen Finney, a senior political strategist in South Carolina.

Presumptive Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden, left, and then-candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., shake hands after a Democratic presidential primary debate last year. Biden has chosen Harris as his running mate.

Harris joins the ticket at a time of immense racial tensions and crises in the nation. The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately affected Black Americans and other people of color. Protests against systemic racism and brutality are top of mind for potential voters.

Alicia Garza, the co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, said the nation is in a moment where “deep and profound change is needed.”

“For some activists, it is important to recognize that a Black woman is represented on this ticket, and for other activists, substance is going to be much more important than symbolism,” Garza said. “The trick of getting people out to vote will be a successful combination of the two. This is an incredible moment of opportunity, it’s a moment that is ripe with possibility and I’m still hopeful that this newly announced ticket will rise to meet the moment.”

Pick: Biden makes history with selection of former rival for vice president

FROM FRONT PAGE

She said Biden would “unify the American people” and “build an America that lives up to our ideals.”

Harris joins Biden at a moment of unprecedented national crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has claimed the lives of more than 160,000 people in the U.S., far more than the toll experienced in other countries. Business closures and disruptions resulting from the pandemic have caused severe economic problems. Unrest, meanwhile, has emerged across the country as Americans protest racism and police brutality.

Trump’s uneven handling of the crises has given Biden an opening, and he enters the fall campaign in strong position against the president. Including Harris to the ticket, he can point to her relatively centrists record on issues such as health care and her background in law enforcement in the nation’s largest state.

The president told reporters Tuesday he was “a little surprised” that Biden picked Harris, pointing to their debate stage disputes during the primary. Trump, who had donated to her previous campaigns, argued she was “about the most liberal person in the U.S. Senate.”

“I would have thought that Biden would have tried to stay away from that a little bit,” he said.

Biden, who spent eight years as President Barack Obama’s vice president, has spent months weighing who would fill that same role in his White House. He pledged in March to select a woman as his vice president, easing frustration among Democrats that the presidential race would center on two white men in their 70s.

Biden’s search was expansive, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a leading progressive; Florida Rep. Val Demings, whose impeachment criticism of Trump won party plaudits; California Rep. Karen Bass, who leads the Congressional Black Caucus; former Obama national security adviser Susan Rice; and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, whose passionate response to unrest in her city garnered national attention.

A woman has never served as president or vice president in the United States. Hillary Clinton was the Democratic presidential nominee in 2016. Two women have been nominated as running mates on major party tickets: Democrat Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 and Republican Sarah Palin in 2008. Their parties lost in the general election.

The vice presidential pick carries increased significance this year. If elected, Biden would be 78 when inaugurated in January, the oldest man to ever assume the presidency. He’s spoken of himself as a transitional figure and hasn’t fully committed to seeking a second term in 2024.

Harris, born in 1964 to a Jamaican father and Indian mother, spent much of her formative years in Berkeley, Calif. She has often spoken of the deep bond she shared with her mother, whom she has called her single biggest influence.

Harris won her first election in 2003 when she became San Francisco’s district attorney. In that post, she created a reentry program for low-level drug offenders and cracked down on student truancy.

She was elected California’s attorney general in 2010, the first woman and Black person to hold the job, and focused on issues including the foreclosure crisis. She declined to defend the state’s Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage and was later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

After being elected to the Senate in 2016, she quickly gained attention for her assertive questioning of Trump administration officials during congressional hearings.

Harris launched her presidential campaign in early 2019 with the slogan “Kamala Harris For the People,” a reference to her courtroom work. She was one of the highest-profile contenders in a crowded Democratic primary and attracted 20,000 people to her first campaign rally in Oakland.

But the early promise of her campaign eventually faded. Her law enforcement background prompted skepticism from some progressives, and she struggled to land on a consistent message that resonated with voters.

One standout moment of her presidential campaign came at the expense of Biden. During a debate, she said Biden made “very hurtful” comments about his past work with segregationist senators and slammed his opposition to busing as schools began to integrate in the 1970s.

“There was a little girl in California who was a part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day,” she said. “And that little girl was me.”

Shaken by the attack, Biden called her comments “a mischaracterization of my position.”

Some Biden confidants said Harris’ debate attack did irritate the former vice president, who had a friendly relationship with her. Harris was also close with Biden’s late son, Beau, who served as Delaware attorney general while she held the same post in California.

But Biden and Harris have since returned to a warm relationship.
Minnesota Rep. Omar holds off primary challenger

**Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS — Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota survived a stiff Democratic primary challenge Tuesday from a well-funded opponent who tried to make an issue of her national celebrity, the latest in a string of victories by new generation of emboldened progressive lawmakers.

Omar, seeking her second term in November, easily defeated Antone Melton-Meaux, an attorney and mediator who raised millions in anti-Omar money.

Omar and her allies gained confidence in her reelection chances after primary victories last week by fellow “Squad” member Rashida Tlaib in Michigan and by Lori Lightfoot, a Black Lives Matter activist who ousted a longtime St. Louis-area congressman. They also claimed momentum from the renewed focus on racial and economic justice after George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis.

"Tonight, our movement didn’t just win," Omar tweeted. "We earned a mandate for change. Despite outside efforts to defeat us, we once again broke turnout records. Despite the attacks, our support has only grown."

Melton-Meaux used the cash to paper the district and flood airwaves with his “Focused on the Fifth” message that portrayed Omar as out of touch with the heavily Democratic Minneapolis-area 5th District, which hasn’t elected a Republican to Congress since 1960. He conceded defeat and acknowledged that his efforts weren’t enough, while declining to speculate on why.

Omar in 2018 became one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress, building on a national profile that started when the onetime refugee from Somalia was elected to the Minnesota Legislature just two years earlier.

Her aggressive advocacy on liberal issues, and her eagerness to take on Donald Trump, made her even more prominent.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith and Republican challenger Jason Lewis easily won their primaries in the only statewide races on the ballot.

Elsewhere, in western Minnesota’s 7th District, former state Sen. Michelle Fischbach won a three-way Republican race for the right to challenge Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson. Peterson, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is one of the GOP’s top targets to flip a House seat in November.

2 conservative Ga. districts choose GOP House nominees

**By Jeff Amy**

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republicans in two conservative north Georgia districts chose nominees to Congress on Tuesday, with voters in northwest Georgia’s 14th district embracing construction executive Marjorie Taylor Greene despite warnings from establishment Republicans about her support of conspiracy theories and racist remarks.

Greene, who ousted a longtime St. Louis-area congressman. They also claimed momentum from the renewed focus on racial and economic justice after George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis.

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Conn. candidate quits race after his arrest

**Associated Press**

A Republican candidate for Congress in Connecticut dropped out of the race Tuesday as voters were going to the polls in his primary election following his arrest in an assault case.

Thomas Gilmer, the party-endorsed candidate, was arrested Monday night on charges of first-degree unlawful restraint and second-degree strangulation. He posted a $5,000 bond. The charges stem from a May 2017 attack on a former girlfriend and a July 22 interview with the victim accor-
Facebook: Virus affected removal of harmful content

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Looks like the machines aren’t ready to take over just yet.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected Facebook’s ability to remove harmful and forbidden material from its platforms, the company said Tuesday. Sending its content moderators to work from home in March amid the pandemic led the company to remove less harmful material from Facebook and Instagram around suicide, self-injury, child nudity and sexual exploitation.

Sending its human reviewers home meant that Facebook relied more on technology, rather than people, to find posts, photos and other content that violates its rules.

“Today’s report shows the impact of COVID-19 on moderating content and demonstrates that, while our technology for identifying and removing violating content is improving, there will continue to be areas where we rely on people to both review content and train our technology,” Guy Rosen, Facebook’s vice president of integrity, wrote in a blog post.

The company said Tuesday that it has since brought many reviewers back to working online from home and, “where it is safe,” a smaller number into offices.

Facebook also announced Tuesday that it is banning caricatures of Black people in the form of blackface, as well as depictions of Jewish people in the form of blackface, as well as depictions of Jewish people.

Georgia

CANTON — A Georgia school district has quarantined more than 900 students and staff members because of possible exposure to the coronavirus since classes resumed last week and temporarily shut down a hard-hit high school in which a widely shared photo showed dozens of maskless students posing together.

The quarantine figures from the Cherokee County School District include at least 528 students, according to data the district posted online.

On Tuesday, Georgia posted its highest single-day death total in the pandemic at 137 fatalities, according to data from the Georgia Department of Public Health. The state is currently averaging reports of more than 60 deaths each day though people may have died earlier.

Of the fatalities reported on Tuesday, Department of Public Health spokesperson Nancy Nydam said 75 occurred in August, 54 in July and eight earlier. More than 4,300 people have died overall in Georgia.

Indiana

MUNCIE — An eastern Indiana school district sent 228 students home to quarantine to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the first such case in what appeared to be the largest isolating case among state schools amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The Delaware Community Schools took action after a football player at Delta High School tested positive for the virus several days ago. The school district is aware of only that one case, The News & Observer reported.

“These were tough decisions for us to make, but with a potential COVID-19 case in one of our schools, we had to take special precautions to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff,” Superintendent Guy Rosen wrote in a blog post.

He said the school district is preparing the school for Phase 3. Outdoor services can expand to 50 percent capacity or 400 people with distancing and masks in place for Phase 1 of the state’s COVID-19 reopening plan can hold outdoor remote sessions are still the recommended option, counties inPhase 1 of the state’s COVID-19 reopening plan can hold outdoor services can be attended by up to 200 people with the same masking and distancing requirements as Phase 1, and indoor services can be held for up to 25% of the room’s capacity or 200 people, whichever is less.

Indianapolis Star Press reported .

“Even the short wait that I had to endure gives me newfound empathy for those that are having to wait even just a couple days to get their test results back, knowing that they may be separated from their family and wondering what their immediate future is going to be,” he said.

Beshar on Tuesday announced 562 new coronavirus cases in Kentucky, raising the total number of cases to at least 35,793 since the pandemic began. The governor reported eight more virus-related deaths, raising the statewide death count to 783.

Montana

HELENA — Montana is allocating $50 million to increase the state’s testing capacity in response to COVID-19, Gov. Steve Bullock said Tuesday.

“As more Montanans return to work and families prepare for the upcoming school year, we must ensure there are options to provide high quality and flexible care during this emergency,” Bullock said in a statement.

The funding was allocated from the state’s $1.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief money.

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Tokyo sees more cases, USFJ extends emergency

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan's capital city reported 222 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, breaking 200 again for the first time in three days as the country heads into another long holiday weekend, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Also Wednesday, the commander of U.S. Forces Japan extended for another month a public health emergency for U.S. military personnel, a signal to commanders across the country to continue or tighten restrictions on their personnel to curb the virus's spread.

U.S. bases Wednesday reported eight new cases, three at the Marines' Camp Courtney and one at Kadena Air Base, and four since Saturday at Yokosuka Naval Base, according to posts on official base Facebook pages.

The emergency declaration, first issued by Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider in April and extended monthly since then, was due to expire Thursday.

Schneider renewed the declaration as Japan copes with a resurgence of the virus and the Americans observe Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is typically a traveling holiday, and civil authorities attribute travel as one cause of the surging virus.

On Wednesday, the number of new cases across Japan slackened somewhat. Tuesday when the country reported 938 new cases, down from a daily high of 1,624 on Saturday, the highest daily tally in more than a month, according to situation reports by the World Health Organization.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike and Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki have counseled their populations generally to stay home and avoid crowded spaces if they venture out. The Tokyo metro area and Okinawa are home to several U.S. bases; Okinawa is home to the bulk of U.S. forces in Japan.

Okinawa reported 65 new cases Wednesday, according to the prefecture's website. Ten people have died there.

A total of 1,052 people in Japan have died of the virus, according to Tuesday's WHO situation report, the most recent available.

The number of deaths per day since July 15 hovered between none and three until Aug. 4, when they rose to between four and seven deaths per day, according to WHO.

At Yokosuka, south of central Tokyo, one of the four cases reported Wednesday tested positive during a medical screening, another was tested after showing symptoms and the remaining two had contact with another infected person.

None were recent arrivals, and all are now in quarantine and their contacts are being traced, according to the Facebook post. The base has 18 active cases.

At Kadena, on Okinawa, one person already quarantined since Aug. 1 tested positive Wednesday and remained in isolation, according to the base Facebook post. At Camp Courtney, the three new cases all stem from contact with another individual, according to a Facebook post by the Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Since the pandemic began, the Marine Corps has reported 301 cases on Okinawa, the bulk of military cases there.

The Marines also reported Wednesday that six people had recovered from the virus for a total of 92 so far in August.

The service branches typically do not specify whether the cases reported are service members, civilian employees or family members.

Schneider’s declaration alone imposes no measures but allows commanders to enforce compliance with their restrictions.

Those measures typically include limits on free-time travel and bans on patronizing bars, nightclubs and other crowded entertainment venues.

The public health emergency also extends the commanders' authority to include Defense Department civilian employees, Japanese workers and family members affiliated with their installations.

Stars and Stripes has partnered with the Association of Military Spouse Entrepreneurs on the first-ever Military Spouse Entrepreneur Guide!

Pick up the guide on August 20th at a base near you!

This photo posted to Kadena Air Base’s official Facebook page Tuesday shows the anti-coronavirus measures in place at an on-base café.

Science and politics tied up in global race for a vaccine

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The announcement Tuesday by Russian President Vladimir Putin that his country was the first to approve a coronavirus vaccine did not prove the awe and wonder of the Soviet Union’s launch of the first satellite into orbit in 1957. Instead, it was met by doubts about the science and safety.

But it also underscored how, like the space race, the competition to have the first vaccine is about international rivalries as well as science. The first nation to develop a way to defeat the novel coronavirus will achieve a kind of moonshot victory and the global status that goes along with it.

That’s valuable to Putin, whose popularity at home has declined amid a stagnant economy and the ravages of the virus outbreak.

“To be the first one out of the block with a coronavirus vaccine would be a real political ‘gunna’ shot in the arm for the Kremlin,” said Timothy Frye, a political science professor at Columbia University who specializes in post-Soviet politics.

Certainly, Russia is not alone in viewing a vaccine in this light. China, where the virus first emerged, has also raced to make progress on a vaccine. A state-owned Chinese company is boasting that its employees, including top executives, received experimental shots even before the government approved testing in people.

And President Donald Trump, whose handling of the coronavirus pandemic has put his political fate in grave jeopardy, is hoping to get credit for his administration’s aggressive push for a vaccine, ideally one that arrives before Election Day in November.

It’s far from clear at this point whether Putin has beaten Trump to this medical milestone.

Putin said the Health Ministry gave its approval after the vaccine underwent the necessary tests and said one of his two adult daughters had been inoculated.

No proof was offered and scientists in Russia warned that more testing would be necessary to prove it is safe and effective. Nonetheless, officials said vaccination of doctors could start as early as this month and mass vaccination may begin as early as October.

Stars and Stripes and the Association of Military Spouse Entrepreneurs have partnered to create the Military Spouse Entrepreneur Guide! Pick up the guide on August 20th at a base near you!
VIRUS OUTFLEAK

FROM FRONT PAGE

“There is a sense that VA does not embrace the care of these veterans as being part of its mission,” Schwartz said.

The seven-person committee started its work by tallying the number of coronavirus deaths at the 115 state-run veteran homes nationwide. They found that a total of 1,011 residents had died as of July 14.

That number, however, includes deaths at only 47 homes in New York State. The committee was unable to access data at state departments of public health and scouring data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Veterans Health Administration, the committee couldn’t obtain infection and facility statistics for 115 veterans homes.

The federal VA does not require the members of state veterans homes to report coronavirus data. VA Press Secretary Christina Noel said Monday that data from state veterans homes aren’t included in the department’s coronavirus counts.

“The more we asked, the more we didn’t see and the more we were suspicious,” Schwartz said.

“I thought, ‘Why aren’t they doing this?’ When you don’t report, you have to ask what’s going on.”

The issue of accounting for deaths at veterans homes was brought up last month at a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. All veterans homes are required to report information about coronavirus infections and deaths to the VA or the CDC, Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., said at the time.

“Unfortunately, we do not know how many people died of COVID-19 at state veterans homes,” Brownley said. “The department lacks a clear picture.”

“I thought, ‘Why aren’t they doing this?’ When you don’t report, you have to ask what’s going on.”

Schwartz said he believes his committee is the only entity to track the number of coronavirus deaths at veteran homes even though by statute the VA has no authority to control or manage them.

The VA has admitted more than 1,200 patients from 12 veterans homes in the last month and has provided information on the homes with personal protective equipment, nursing retention, and health and scouring data from the VA.

In one interview with WSHU, an NPR affiliate, Wilkie said the VA had “moved into those veterans homes, even though by statute we have no authority to control or manage them.”

The seven-person committee agreed with the GAO that the VA’s oversight of state veterans homes in 2019 was “lax. As part of their recommendations, the committee suggested the VA meet with leaders from each state to discuss what went wrong during the pandemic and establish a plan for better communication.

In their report, committee members wrote that state veterans homes with strong ties to their local VA hospitals fared much better than those without any collaboration.

“We expect the VA’s core mission to be considered a part of the VA’s core mission. We think it’s the heart of the matter,” Schwartz said. “And there needs to be a closer relationship, more investment. It’s incumbent on both parties.”

VIRUS OUTFLEAK

Homes: Lack of data, accountability leads to suspicion over VA handling of pandemic

Companies test antibody drugs to treat and prevent COVID-19

Associated Press

With a coronavirus vaccine still months away from being widely distributed, researchers are pushing to test what may be the next best thing: drugs that deliver antibodies to fight the virus right away, without having to prime the immune system to make them.

Antibodies are proteins the body creates when an infection occurs; they attach to a virus and help it be eliminated. Vaccines work by tricking the immune system into thinking there’s an infection so that it makes antibodies and remembers how to do that if the real bug turns up.

But it can take a month or two after vaccination or infection for the most effective antibodies to form. The experimental drugs shortcut that process by giving concentrated versions of specific antibodies directly to people in labs and animal tests.

“A vaccine takes time to work, to force the development of an antibody to fight the virus or to boost the immune system,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas. “But if you have an antibody, you get immediate protection,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas. “But if you have an antibody, you get immediate protection,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas.

“Antibodies are best in a swiftly moving disease like COVID-19,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas. “But if you have an antibody, you get immediate protection,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas.

These drugs are believed to give quick, temporary immunity to people at high risk of infection, such as health workers and housemates of people already infected with COVID-19. If they proved effective and if a vaccine doesn’t materialize or protect as hoped, the drugs might eventually be considered for wider use, perhaps for teachers or other groups.

“They’re also being tested as treatments for patients who are in the early stages of their infection or have been recently exposed to the virus,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas. “But if you have an antibody, you get immediate protection,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas.

In some cases, there is no target for the vaccine; it can be used to boost the immune system or prevent severe symptoms or death.

“Once a vaccine has been developed and tested, a treatment may target people who are in the first week of their illness and that can treat them with the antibody and prevent the virus from replicating,” said Dr. Marshall Lyon, an infectious disease specialist who tested treatments at Emory University in Atlanta.

Having a tool such as that “would be a really meaningful thing in our fight against COVID,” Cohen said.

The antibody drugs are “very promising” and could be available fairly quickly, said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas. “But if you have an antibody, you get immediate protection,” said University of North Carolina microbiologist Dr. Robert Silas.

“The success with our Ebola program gives us some confidence that we can potentially do this again,” said Christos Kyriakou, a Regeneron microbiologist who helped lead that work.

Regeneron’s drug uses two antibody molecules to make sure the drug will work even if the virus evolves to evade action by one.

Lilly is testing two different, single-antibody drugs—one with the Canadian company AbCellera and another with a Chinese company, Junshi Biosciences. In July, Junshi said no safety concerns emerged in 40 healthy people who tried it and that larger studies were getting underway.

COVID-19 deaths at state veterans homes

State veterans homes   Total Deaths

Alabama  Bill Nichols State Veterans Home ... 35
Arizona  State Veteran Homes ... 16
California  Veteran Homes Fresno ... 10
California  Veteran Homes Redding ... 10
California  Veteran Homes Stockton ... 8
Colorado  State Veteran Homes Aurora ... 26
Connecticut  John Levlit Veterans’ Health CTR ... 3
Florida  Alexander Nixinger Veteran’s Home ... 18
Florida  Baldomero Lopez SVH Land O’Lakes ... 18
Georgia  War Veterans Nursing Home ... 23
Georgia  War Veterans Home ... 1
Idaho  Boise Veterans Home ... 2
Illinois  Manteno Veterans’ Home ... 16
Indiana  Veteran Homes Lafayette ... 1
Iowa  Veteran Homes ... 1
SE Louisiana  War Veterans Home ... 15
NE Louisiana  War Veterans Home ... 15
NW Louisiana  War Veterans Home ... 15
SW Louisiana  War Veterans Home ... 2
Maine  Veterans’ Home ... 3
Maryland  Charlotte Hall Veterans Home ... 16
Massachusetts  Soldiers’ Home Holyoke ... 84
Massachusetts  Soldiers’ Home Chelsea ... 8
Minnesota  Veterans Home Minneapolis ... 13
Mississippi  Veterans Home Kosciusko ... 13
Montana  State Veterans Home ... 13
Nevada  Veterans Nursing Home ... 3
NJ  Veterans Memorial Home Vineland ... 66
NJ  Veterans Memorial Home Menlo Park ... 72
New Mexico  Veteran Homes ... 82
NY State  Veterans’ Home at Oxford ... 10
NY Long Island State Veterans Home ... 72
NY State  Veterans’ Home at St. Albans ... 50
NY State  Veterans’ Home at Montrose ... 36
NC State Veterans Home Fayetteville ... 96
NC State Veterans Home Salisbury ... 15
NC State Veterans Home Kinston ... 1
Ohio  Veterans Home Sandusky ... 18
Oklahoma  Claremore Veterans Center ... 10
Oregon  Veteran Homes ... 10
PA  Southeastern Veterans Center ... 46
Rhode Island  Veterans Home ... 5
South Carolina ... 3
Tennessee  BG Wendell H. Gilbert ... 5
Texas  State Veterans Homes ... 2
Utah  William E. Christofferson Salt Lake City ... 13
Washington  Spokane Veterans’ Home ... 11
Armed Forces Retirement Home DC ... 29
TOTAL 1018
Cow chase leads to helicopter rescue

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A confrontation between an elderly couple and a cow and her calf required the intervention of the California Highway Patrol in Northern California. Authorities said on Facebook that the unidentified couple had fallen to the ground after a cow gave chase to them in the Lynch Canyon Regional Park. They were hoisted into a helicopter to elude the angry bovine.

In a video taken by highway patrol midair, a cow and calf are seen standing near the couple on the barren trail. As the chopper hovers above the site, the cow is seen rearing its head and bellowing, while the calf stands nearby. Highway patrol succeeded in moving the cow by sounding the helicopter’s alarm, CHP wrote in a Facebook post.

Officials lifted the couple 75 feet into the air and took them to a hospital.

Climate activists hang banner on iconic sign

MA BOSTON — Members of an activist group hung a banner that read “CLIMATE CHANGE NOW!” on the iconic Citgo sign near Boston’s Fenway Park, leading to eight arrests, police said.

The group unfurled the banner as the Red Sox began their game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway. A spokesperson for the group, Extinction Rebellion Boston, told The Boston Globe that it was hoping to bring attention to environmental issues.

The eight people were taken into custody and charged with trespassing and disturbing the peace, police said. Two others were summoned to court for the same charges, police said.

Mascot, alternate to keep roles for extra year

WV MORGANTOWN — The West Virginia University Mountaineer mascot and alternate will get to serve an extra year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Colson Glover, a junior from Lewisburg, became Mountaineer in April, and Brooke Ashby, a senior from Mannington, is alternate. They have not made in-person appearances or performed any of their duties, the university said.

The Mountaineer Advisory Council said they will continue in their roles through 2021-22. The hope is that they will have an opportunity to serve as mascot by extending the term, said Ann Hedman, assistant vice president for outreach.

New Mountaineer mascot tryouts will return in 2022.

Science museum gets grant to digitize artifacts

IL CHICAGO — The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago has received a grant to digitize thousands of its artifacts that’ll make them free to public access.

Taking the plunge

Girls take part in a summertime ritual as they jump off a bridge into the Ogunquit River on Tuesday in Ogunquit, Maine. Temperatures in southern Maine were expected to continue to climb into the 90s for a couple more days before cooler, drier air moves in later this week.

Boat explosion injures 2, damages 6 vessels

TN KINGSTON — Two people were seriously injured when an explosion happened while their boat was docked at a marina in East Tennessee, officials said.

Crews responded to Blue Springs Marina on Watts Bar Lake over the weekend after small explosions were reported on moored vessels, news outlets reported, citing a statement from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

There was significant damage to the dock and six vessels, two of which sank, the statement said.

Parachutist hurt after crashing into building

OH CLEVELAND — A parachutist crashed into the side of an apartment building in downtown Cleveland and ended up injured and suspended about 40 feet in the air until he was rescued by firefighters, authorities said.

The 35-year-old man told police he and four friends jumped from a plane about 2 a.m. Sunday. The four other parachutists landed safely in a park, but the 35-year-old man’s parachute drifted and ended up injured and suspended. The organization’s Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team responded. She said the team of roughly 50 volunteers used beach-ready stretchers to carry nearly a dozen of the dolphins to safety.

They also gave the marine mammals IV fluids and vitamins, and deployed boats to guide them back to deeper waters. Two dolphins, however, were in poor health and ultimately were euthanized, Hedman said.

There will still be 4-H and Future Farmers of America virtual competitions.

There were eight dolphins rescued, officials said. The group unfurled the banner that read “CLIMATE CHANGE NOW!” on the iconic Citgo sign near Boston’s Fenway Park, leading to eight arrests, police said. The group unfurled the banner as the Red Sox began their game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway.

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The Mountaineer Advisory Council said they will continue in their roles through 2021-22. The hope is that they will have an opportunity to serve as mascot by extending the term, said Ann Hedman, assistant vice president for outreach.

New Mountaineer mascot tryouts will return in 2022.
USS Essex delivers WWII warbirds

3 Hawaii flyovers to commemorate end of Pacific war

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Massive cranes began hoisting 14 World War II-vintage warplanes from an amphibious assault ship Tuesday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, two weeks before they will take to the sky for a series of aerial parades over Oahu to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the war’s end.

The collection of warbirds made the journey from San Diego aboard the USS Essex, along with some owners and maintenance crews of the planes.

The first two flyovers are scheduled for the afternoons of Aug. 29 and 30. The routines have not yet been announced, but planners have said one will likely be viewable from Honolulu’s Waikiki Beach, while the other will be over the western part of Oahu.

The final aerial parade will commence immediately after a ceremony on Sept. 2 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor that marks the exact day Japan formally surrendered. Among the warbirds arriving:

- A B-25 Mitchell bomber, the same kind of aircraft flown in the historic Doolittle Raid in April 1942, is unloaded from the Essex at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Tuesday.

- A B-25 Mitchell bomber, the kind used in the daring Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in April 1942.

- A Grumman FM2 Wildcat, a carrier fighter that was used by the Navy and Marine Corps in battles at Guadalcanal, the Coral Sea, Midway and the Solomon Islands.

- A Grumman F8F Bearcat, Grumman’s last piston-engine fighter, which was introduced late in the war.

- A Boeing-Stearman Model 75, one of more than 10,000 training planes of this type produced during the war.

- A Grumman TBM Avenger, a Navy torpedo bomber that the Navy first used in the Battle of Midway.

- A P-51 Mustang, which served as a long-range, high-altitude bomber escort.

Fourteen U.S. veterans who witnessed Japan’s surrender aboard the USS Missouri while in Tokyo Bay in 1945 plan on attending the Sept. 2 ceremony called “Salute Their Service, Honor Their Hope.”

Most of the events originally planned to commemorate the war’s end have been dropped due to the coronavirus pandemic. Visiting veterans and their chaplains will be kept in “bubbles” intended to keep them separated from others. They will be among the small group allowed to attend the ceremony on the Missouri, which will be livestreamed.

The USS Essex transports a bevy of World War II-era warbirds from San Diego to Hawaii on Tuesday.

Kenneth Rodriguez Santiago/U.S. Navy

Jessica Blackwell/U.S. Navy

A B-25 Mitchell bomber, the same kind of aircraft flown in the historic Doolittle Raid in April 1942, is unloaded from the Essex at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Tuesday.

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

PRAGUE — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday called upon the young democracies of central and Eastern Europe to embrace their hard-won freedoms as they face threats from Russia, China and others while seeing backsliding closer to home, including in Belarus.

America’s top diplomat said the rise in authoritarianism was not an abstract trend focused on far-away capitals such as Moscow and Beijing but was apparent also in Europe and its backyard, notably in Belarus, which has been wracked by unrest since its disputed presidential election Sunday.

“We see that authoritarianism didn’t die in 1989 or in 1991. The storm was still there. It was simply over the horizon. While we wrote the epitaph on those types of regimes, we now know that it was premature,” Pompeo said in a speech to Czech lawmakers. He and Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, at a separate event earlier, had denounced the post-election violence and repression in Belarus.

“We will continue to speak about the risks to the Belarusian people,” Pompeo said. “We want them to have freedom in the same way that people do across the world.” The Trump administration has been criticized for its own approach to human rights, but Pompeo said the U.S. would remain firm and constant in its support for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

The administration has sought to improve long-strained relations with Belarus, and when Pompeo visited the country in early February, he was the first secretary of state to do so in 26 years.
Iraq military says Turkish drone kills 2 senior commanders

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A Turkish drone strike killed two senior Iraqi security officials, Iraq’s military said Tuesday, marking the first time that Turkey’s operation to root out Kurdish rebels in Iraq’s north produced fatalities among high-ranking Iraqi personnel.

The drone targeted a vehicle belonging to the Border Guards in the Bradost area, north of Irbil, the military statement said, causing the deaths of two commanders and the vehicle’s driver.

Gen. Mohammed Rushdi, commander of the Border Guards’ 2nd Brigade and Brig. Zahair Halli, commander of the 3rd Regiment, were killed in the attack, Ihsan Chelebi, the mayor of Bradost, told The Associated Press. He said they had been establishing new posts in the area.

Attempts to reach Turkish military officials for comment were not successful.

Baghdad condemned the attack as a violation of Iraq’s sovereignty and said continued attacks would provoke a “review” of bilateral relations, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Iraq also canceled a scheduled visit by Turkey’s defense minister Thursday.

Two Iraqi security officials said the Border Guard commandos were meeting secretly with members of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, during the attack. Turkey considers the PKK a terrorist organization and has bombed their positions in northeastern Iraq in several operations.

The security officials said five others were also killed in the attack. They did not say whether they were military personnel or civilians.

A PKK official in northern Iraq said the operation was “a terrorist organization and has bombed their positions in northeastern Iraq in several operations.”

The PKK’s deputy political leader, Ilham Din, told The Associated Press that the attack was “a violation of Iraq’s sovereignty” and said continued attacks would provoke a “review” of bilateral relations.

Iraq military says Turkish drone kills 2 senior commanders

Outcry rises in Somalia as new bill would allow child marriages

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — An outcry is rising in Somalia as parliament considers a bill that would allow child marriage once a girl’s sexual organs mature and would allow forced marriage as long as the family gives their consent.

The bill, known as the Reproductive Rights Bill, would allow child marriage once a girl’s sexual organs mature and would allow forced marriage as long as the family gives their consent.

Already more than 45% of young women in Somalia were married or “in union” before age 18, according to a United Nations analysis in 2014-15.

Somalia in 2013 agreed with the U.N. to improve its sexual violence laws, and after five years of work, a sexual offenses bill was approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to parliament. But last year, the speaker of the House of the People sent the bill back “in a process that may have deviated from established law” asking for “substantive amendments,” the U.N. special representative said.

Thousandsof people in Somalia are circulating a petition against the bill, including Ilwad Elman with the Mogadishu-based Elman Peace center.

As Somalia prepared to mark International Youth Day on Wednesday, Elman tweeted this week: “I don’t want to see any Somali officials participating online to celebrate … when you’re trying to steal their childhood away from them RIGHT NOW with the intercource bill legalizing child marriage.”

Somalia’s presidency and health ministry had made no immediate comment Wednesday. It was not clear when the bill would be put up for a vote.

“We want to make sure it goes in line with Islamic law and traditions,” the deputy parliament speaker, Abdwell Mudey, said after the new bill emerged.
Rhimes reads podcasts

Prolific TV producer turns to new medium to tell stories

By Laura Zornosa
Los Angeles Times

From the makers of the hit TV series “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Scandal” comes ... a whole slate of new podcasts.

Un-angle your ears bud and flash back to your morning commutes filled with Shondaland Audio and iHeartMedia are teaming up for three new original podcasts this month, with more to come in the months ahead.

In October, TV producer titan Shonda Rhimes inked a deal with iHeartMedia, the top global publisher of commercial podcasts.

On Tuesday, Rhimes’ production company announced exclusively to the Los Angeles Times the upcoming lineup of shows, which will be made with iHeartMedia and sponsored by GroupM.

“You Down?,” a talk show style podcast hosted by Obama’s Other Daughters — an LA comedy group of four Black women — kicked off the podcast series Tuesday. Next week will see the arrival of the historical true-crime show “Criminalia” and “Go Ask Ali,” hosted by actress Ali Wentworth.

In such a saturated podcast market (more than 800,000 active ones exist), these fresh shows might have a hard time cutting through the noise. But for Sandle Bailey, Shondaland Audio’s chief design and digital media officer, those podcasts resonate with people — just as the “Grey’s” plots did.

“Their voices have a hard time cutting through the noise. But for people — just as the “Grey’s” plots did.

“Comics” is a scripted series exploring the story of Firefly Ed Wilson, who essential

ally took over the Oval Office; “#Matter,” a scripted drama about a reporter reflecting on a case of police brutality; and “Black Girl Lost,” which examines growing numbers of missing Black women and girls in a documentary style.

While a couple of these shows directly address concerns surfaced by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody and an ongoing campaign for racial equity, the lineup has been months in the making.

“I think that some of the programming was, interestingly enough, already on the slate before we started to see this recent uprising,” Bailey said. “And it will be just absolutely amazing for us to get some of these stories told now.”

Chris Rock-led ‘Fargo’ starts next month

From wire reports

Following its COVID-19-related delay, “Fargo” is finally returning to the airwaves.

The Emmy Award-winning drama series will return for a fourth season with a two-episode premiere on Sept. 27 statewide.

In March, the limited anthology series was rescheduled from its original April 19 premiere due to the coronavirus crisis.

This season, the popular FX drama series is set in 1950 Kansas City and follows two criminal syndicates fighting for a piece of the American dream.

The most interesting twist for this iteration is the addition of a Black clan into the murky mayhem.

Cast against type, comedian Chris Rock takes a dramatic turn as a crime boss named Loy Cannon, whose uneasy truce with his Italian mafia counterpart is tested with deadly results.

The cast joining Rock for this 11-episode season includes Emmy Award winner Glynn Turman, Jeremie Harris, Timothy Olyphant, Jason Schwartzman, Corey Hendrix, James Vincent Meredith, Salvatore Esposito and Ben Whishaw.

Based loosely on the Oscar-winning 1996 Coen Brothers film of the same name, Noah Hawley’s series is crossing over for top-notch acting talent. Billy Bob Thornton, Jean Smart, Kirsten Dunst, Ted Danson, Patrick Wilson, Boksem Woodbine and Ewan McGregor have starred in past seasons.

“Fargo” can also be found at FX on Hulu, a day after its FX airdate.

Ahmad Arbery, George Floyd cases likely to air on Court TV

Court TV is likely to get a few million witnesses for the prosecution.

In a bombshell disclosure, the true-life crime channel announced Tuesday that it plans to roll cameras for two high-profile court cases.

Minnesota vs. Chauvin, which chronicles the murder case against Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin, who was involved in the May 25 death of George Floyd; and State of Georgia vs. Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael and William Bryan, who were arrested in connection to the Feb. 23 death of 25-year-old jogger Ahmaud Arbery, are both expected to be blockbuster events.

Court TV is also vowing extensive coverage of both cases, with network legal correspondence and justice journalists discussing daily trial events.

Other news

Sharon Stone is writing a memoir. The 62-year-old actress’ “The Beauty of Living Twice” comes out in March. Alfred A. Knopf announced Tuesday that Stone will reflect on everything from her painful childhood in Pennsylvania to such films as “Basic Instinct” and “Casino,” for which she received an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe award. She’ll also write about her two marriages, her near-fatal stroke in 2001 and her humanitarian work.

Trini Lopez, a singer and guitarist who gained fame for his versions of “Lemon Tree” and “If I Had a Hammer” in the 1960s, died Wednesday in Palm Springs, Calif. He was 83. Filmmaker P. David Ebersole, who just finished shooting a documentary on Lopez, confirmed that Lopez died from complications of COVID-19. Business partner and musician Joe Chavira said he and Lopez just finished recording the song “If By Now,” meant to raise money for food banks during COVID-19.

Summer Redstone, who built a media empire from his family’s drive-in movie chain, has died. He was 97. Redstone built ViacomCBS Inc. through aggressive acquisitions, but many headlines with his name focused on severed ties with wives, ac tors and executives. Under his watch, Viacom became one of the nation’s media titans, home to pay TV channels MTV and Comedy Central and movie studio Paramount Pictures.
Vaccine’s a shot in the arm for Putin’s ego

By Kathleen Parker
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

While back when, many Americans read not one but two newspapers and even by subscription, news saying emerged in my first newsroom: The afternoon paper gets the story, the morning paper gets the response. Having worked for two (now dead) afternoon papers, I could argue for swapping the roles. We had stories, too, of trying to beat competitors and get the story first, often meant essential revisions, if not corrections, later. It takes time to properly report a story and place it in context.

My memory of this essential truth was jarred by the news that Russia has announced that it is developing a vaccine and will use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The vaccine’s name tells most of the story. Sputnik, of course, refers to the then-Soviet Union’s first manned satellite, which was launched Oct. 4, 1957. About the size of a beach ball, Sputnik or- bited Earth for about three weeks before its batteries died. After circling silently for a few days, the orbit finally decayed and the debris re-entered the Earth’s atmosphere and rolled into history’s dustbin. It didn’t matter; the Soviets were most pleased to leave the U.S. fumbling at the starting gate.

Rivalry was a powerful motive, and at the time the Soviets and Americans were competing to develop rocket, engine and re-entry technologies. Today, the ego boost of an expanded engagement and the challenge of stopping a deadly virus that is galluping around the globe.

Sputnik V is a modification of the original Sputnik V, which was a one-dose vaccine. However, there are differences: Sputnik V has been modified to be more effective against new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The vaccine is made up of two molecules: a lipid vesicle containing the SARS-CoV-2 genome and an adjuvant that enhances the immune response.

The vaccine was approved by the Russian health authorities on August 11, 2020, and is being distributed to Russian military personnel and volunteers. The vaccine is now being tested in clinical trials in other countries, including in the United States.

The vaccine’s development and distribution has been controversial. Some have criticized the vaccine’s safety and efficacy, while others have praised it as a major victory for Russia’s biomedical research. The vaccine has also been a source of political rivalry, with other countries seeking to develop their own vaccines and seeking to undermine Russia’s efforts.

This vaccine has been developed in partnership with the Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, a prominent research institute in Russia. The institute has a long history of developing vaccines and is known for its work in the field of virology.

The vaccine’s development has been funded by the Russian government, which has committed significant resources to the effort. The vaccine’s production is being carried out by a state-owned company, the Vektor Biotechnology Institute, which is part of the Gamaleya Institute.

The vaccine’s distribution has been accompanied by a public relations campaign. The Russian government has emphasized the vaccine’s effectiveness and safety, and has sought to reassure the public about its benefits.

Overall, the vaccine’s development and distribution have been seen as a major victory for Russia’s biomedical research and as a symbol of its growing influence on the global stage.
Harris has already confounded Republicans

BY DAN MORAIN
Special to The Washington Post

Smart Republicans could see Kamala Harris coming years ago, and they didn’t do much to stop her. Now that Joe Biden has chosen the first-term senator from California as his running mate, America is about to see what those Republicans could see long ago: Harris is a quick learner and gifted political performer with genuine star power.

It’s facile to compare Harris to former President Barack Obama, though the two are friends. Harris, 55, is the daughter of two academics, a mother from India and a father from Jamaica, who separated when she was 5. Harris and her younger sister were raised primarily by their mom.

She was an excellent student who, when she first ran for U.S. Senate in 2004. Three years later, she was quick to endorse his presidential candidacy when others in the party held back. Like Obama, Harris navigated her way through a swampy city filled with sharp-elbowed politicians. The least one of them was Roseanne Brown, the former San Francisco mayor and speaker of the California Assembly, who helped out Harris as she campaigned for her runoff to the U.S. Senate in 2010.

Brown beamed. (The two were an item at the time. It didn’t last. She married Los Angeles attorney Douglas Emhoff in 2014.)

In 2002 and 2003, Brown, the former San Francisco mayor, presented Brown with a baseball cap emblazoned with the words “Da Man.”

As Biden knows, Harris can verbally excise an opponent. At a debate at the UC-Davis law school, a reporter moderating the event asked Cooley whether, if elected, he would take his pension from his decades of service as a Los Angeles County prosecutor. It was to be a six-figure sum.

“I’ve definitely earned my pension rights I have,” Cooley said.

Harris saw the answer for what it was, a blunder. She replied with a knowing laugh, “Go for it, Steve. You’ve earned it; there’s no question.” Her campaign turned the exchange into a withering campaign ad that aired in Cooley’s base, the L.A. basin.

On election night 2010, as the tea party swept to victory everywhere, Cooley declared victory and the San Francisco Chronicle jumped the gun, running an online headline: “Cooley beats Harris to win attorney general race.”

But California takes weeks to tally its votes. By the time the count was over, Harris had earned a 74,157-vote victory, out of more than 9.6 million cast.

Now, even bigger things await. And Republicans are running out of chances to stop her.

Harris has already confounded Republicans.

Trump must work to free Tice, bring him home

BY FRED RYAN
The Washington Post

Eight years ago this week, a young man named Austin Tice was abducted in Syria. During his last summer as a Georgetown University law student, he had decided to travel to the Middle East as a freelance journalist to document that country’s ongoing conflict between the U.S. and Syria.

Eight years later, in September 2018, Tice was killed in a war zone where the U.S. is engaged in a proxy war. His father, a retired Army colonel, went to Damascus and said he was certain the journalist was alive. In 2021, the Trump administration helped the family, worked with international human rights groups, and offered $1 million in rewards.

But there is one person who, by far, can exert the greatest influence in securing Austin’s freedom: the president of the United States. Throughout the Obama administration, efforts to bring Austin home proved unsuccessful. Since assuming office in 2017, President Donald Trump has made welcome statements denouncing Austin’s detention and expressing hope that he will be released. So far, however, he has shown no greater ability than his predecessor to achieve progress in Austin’s case.

When it comes to negotiating hostage releases, quick phone calls and public utterances are never enough. Nor is it sufficient to delegate the issue to the machinery of the State Department and other agencies and assume the issue will somehow resolve itself. History shows that the only way to get information they provide us from the darkest corners of the world. With each day that Austin remains imprisoned, his captors continue to insult the pride and principles of the United States.

The president must stand up for America’s values and bring Austin home safely without further delay. Tuesday was Austin’s 39th birthday, and he celebrated it, as he has the previous seven, alone and imprisoned, thousands of miles away from family, friends and the country he served.

No American deserves this, and no one who believes in the values of a free press should tolerate it.

If hostage releases can take a long time. But eight years is more than enough time for the U.S. government to secure Austin Tice’s return. Securing his release must be a top presidential priority.

More than a single young man is being held hostage: An entire nation is.
Tuesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**

Major League Baseball

**BOSTON RED SOX** — Placed RHP Nick Pivetta on the 10-day IL. Replaced RHP Nick Pivetta on the 10-day IL.

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Selected LHP Nick Senzel from the alternate training site. Optioned RHP Alex Cintron for 20 games and sent outright to alternate training site.

**DETROIT TIGERS** — Reinstated SS Willi Castro from Alternate Training Site.

**HOUSTON ASTROS** — Placed OF Ramon Laureano for 6 games and sent outright to alternate training site.

**LA DODGERS** — Inactivated INF Leury Garcia on the 10-day IL.

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Acquired SF Ildemaro Vargas from the Arizona Diamondbacks for cash considerations. Optioned OF Benji JOHNSON to the 40-man roster.

**KOCH, NEIL** — Placed OF Tyler Naquin from the 10-day IL.

**NEW YORK METS** — Optioned LHP Joely Rodriguez to the alternate training site. Reinstated RHP Noah Syndergaard from the IL.

**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Optioned RHP Calten Da Silva from the 10-day IL. Placed INF Adalberto Mondesi on the IL.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** — Acquired RHP Nick Pivetta from the Boston Red Sox. Reinstated RHP Nick Pivetta from the IL.

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Claimed RHP Nick Thorpe off waivers from the Toronto Blue Jays. Optioned RHP Nick Pivetta to the IL.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Optioned OF Ramon Laureano for 6 games and sent outright to alternate training site.

**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Waived OLB Jordan Willis.

**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Reinstated RHP 20 games and sent outright to alternate training site.

**NEW YORK RED BULLS** — Acquired F月下 of China. Reinstated SS Tommy La Stella.

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Placed RHP J宣传 on the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Michael Kopech on the IL.

**DETROIT TIGERS** — Reinstated SS Willi Castro from Alternate Training Site.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Recalled SS Isiah Kiner-Falefa from the IL.

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**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Waived OLB Jordan Willis.
Effect: Each league making tough decision

FROM BACK PAGE

optimism. The Big 12 was conspicuously quiet, at least publicly, before announcing Wednesday it still plans to play this fall. Outside the Power Five conferences, the American Athletic Conference, Conference USA and Sun Belt made no immediate moves.

“Everyone is going to make their independent decisions and I certainly respect our colleagues,” Scott said. “We try to be very collaborative, communicative with our peers across the country. But at the end of the day, our presidents and chancellors looked at what was in best interest of Pac-12 student-athletes based on the advice and frankly what’s going on in our communities.”

The Big Ten said it was postponing all fall sports and hoping to make them up in the second semester. An hour later, the Pac-12, the Big Ten’s Rose Bowl partner, said all sports would be paused until Jan. 1, including basketball.

Players around the country were stunned. Many had recently taken to social media with the hashtag #WeWantToPlay. Ohio State star quarterback Justin Fields was among those trying to present a unified front and save their season.

After the announcement, Fields simply posted to Twitter: “smh,” short for “shaking my head.”

“Our lives are changing forever right before our eyes,” Arizona offensive lineman Donovan Laie tweeted.

Less than a week ago, the Big Ten — which includes perennial powers such as Ohio State, Michigan, Nebraska and Penn State — had released a revised conference-only football schedule it hoped would help it navigate a fall season filled with potential COVID-19 disruptions.

Even after the Big Ten made its call, there were diverging thoughts about how it should have proceeded.

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said he would have liked to have pushed back the season from Sept. 5 to maybe early October.

“We wish we could have had a little bit more time to evaluate, but we certainly understand this has to be the right time to pull the plug,” Smith told the Big Ten network.

A statement from Nebraska’s president, athletic director and coach was more stern:

“We are very disappointed in the decision by the Big Ten Conference to postpone the fall football season, as we have been and continue to be ready to play.”

Nebraska coach Scott Frost and Ohio State coach Ryan Day both said they had been aware of the Big Ten’s plans Sunday afternoon.

The Big Ten and Pac-12 have been reworking schedules in the hopes of being able to buy time and play a season. The Big Ten was the first to settle on conference-only play, in early July, and all the Power Five conferences eventually switched to either all or mostly conference play.

The idea behind it was to create flexibility to deal with the possibility of having to cancel or reschedule games because of COVID-19 outbreaks, like the ones that have hit Major League Baseball.

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields picks up yardage against Wisconsin during the first half of the Big Ten championship game on Dec. 7. The Big Ten won’t play football this fall because of concerns about COVID-19, becoming the first of the power conferences to yield to the pandemic.

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

B ack in April, not long after the NCAA basketball tournament was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, the idea of moving the 2020 college football to the spring of 2021 already was being tossed around.

A last resort is what it was called by conference commissioners and athletic directors.

When it looked as if the U.S. might be winning its fight against COVID-19, the idea of a spring season mostly fell by the wayside.

“We broached it very little in our AD meetings and really haven’t gotten serious about it at all,” Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez said Tuesday. “I had one AD from another league call and just talk about it a little bit.”

The Big Ten and Pac-12 postponed football on Tuesday, hoping to salvage a spring season like the Mid-American Conference and Mountain West plan to do.

What looks like is anybody’s guess, but officials in those conferences need to figure out everything from how to prepare in the fall to how much to play in the spring, where in the calendar it could fit and who exactly is going to be suiting up for these teams?

Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said before a spring football season is planned, there has to be a discussion about fall 2021.

“I think the two have to be tied together. In my mind, we’ve made the decision and we’ve canceled the 2020 season,” Chryst said. “Now how do we want to do 2021?”

Todd Berry is the executive director of the American Football Coaches Association and a member of the NCAA’s football oversight committee. He said conversations about a spring football season have been minimal, but there has been a theme.

“We would all like to go into next fall with some kind of normalcy,” he said. “Protecting next fall becomes pretty significant.”

So it’s safe to assume any spring season is going to be substantially shorter than the usual 12 regular-season games.

Exactly when a season could be played in the spring is likely to be determined by the virus on the front end and the NCAA men’s basketball tournament on the back.

Would anybody in college sports want football treading on basketball’s main event?

Keeping the players in shape might be easier than simply keeping them around.

More than two dozen FBS players, including some big stars from the Big Ten such as Penn State lineman Micah Parsons and receivers Rondale Moore of Purdue and Rashod Bateman of Minnesota, opted out of the 2020 season even before the conference postponed.

Will other highly regarded future NFL players such as Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields, Oregon offensive lineman Penei Sewell and Penn State tight end Pat Freiermuth bother participating in a spring season?

The NFL scouting combine is in late February and the draft is in late April. If the NFL does nothing to accommodate spring college football, some of the surest players are almost certain to leave.

The players who needed another year to improve their stock might be more inclined to stay and play. But an injury in the spring could be an even bigger problem when it comes time to earn a spot on an NFL roster in the summer.
### MLB Scoreboard

#### Tuesday

**Kansas City Royals at Chicago White Sox**

- **Kansas City**
  - **Barnes (7)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Rios (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sanford (4)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
- **Chicago**
  - **Jimenez (3)**: 4 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 0 HR, 2 RBI
  - **B委tt (2)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sood (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Richter (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI

#### Wednesday

**Arizona Diamondbacks at Colorado Rockies**

- **Arizona**
  - **May (3)**: 7 AB, 4 R, 4 H, 0 HR, 1 RBI
  - **Marlins (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Garcia (5)**: 4 AB, 1 R, 1 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sudduth (1)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
- **Colorado**
  - **Hill (2)**: 4 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Stephen (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Romero (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Acuna (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI

### Thursday

**San Francisco Giants at Miami Marlins**

- **San Francisco**
  - **Bichard (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Garcia (5)**: 4 AB, 1 R, 1 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sudduth (1)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
- **Miami**
  - **Hill (2)**: 4 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Stephen (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Romero (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Acuna (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI

### Friday

**Seattle Mariners at San Diego Padres**

- **Seattle**
  - **Goody (1)**: 4 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Rodriguez (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Hernandez (3)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Montes (2)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
- **San Diego**
  - **Richter (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Salazar (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Lopez (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sanchez (5)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI

### Weekend

**Oakland Athletics at Los Angeles Dodgers**

- **Oakland**
  - **Dobson (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Crandall (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Johnson (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sanchez (5)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
- **Los Angeles**
  - **Richter (1)**: 1 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Salazar (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Lopez (2)**: 2 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
  - **Sanchez (5)**: 3 AB, 0 R, 0 H, 0 HR, 0 RBI
Bo Bichette, Travis Shaw and the wandering Toronto Blue Jays felt just fine in their new nest.

In the first major league game in Buffalo since 1915, Shaw hit an RBI single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning as the Blue Jays settled into refitted Sahlen Field with a 5-4 win over the Miami Marlins on Tuesday night.

“We’re still staying in a hotel, but it almost felt like the first game of the year. To go out and say, ‘All right, this is our spot,’ I think we did well,” said Bichette, who hit a three-run homer.

Barred from playing in Toronto by the Canadian government over concerns about the coronavirus, the Blue Jays spent nearly three weeks on the road before moving into the ballpark of their Triple-A affiliate as their temporary home this year.

And in the city famed for wings and beef on weck sandwiches, Toronto made it a tasty home opener. The downtown park, a field at Angel Stadium.

“It’s definitely a little different,” Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. Francisco Cervelli’s three-run homer with two outs in the Miami ninth made it 4-4.

Logan Forsythe then nearly put the Marlins ahead with a long drive in the 10th inning as the Blue Jays shortstop Bo Bichette celebrates his three-run homer in his team’s 5-4 defeat of the Miami Marlins on Tuesday in Buffalo, N.Y.

Bundy (3-1), who struck out 10 with one walk.

csrfets 6, Dodgers 2: Manny Machado slugged a grand slam after two consecutive errors by Los Angeles in the third inning, Garrett Richards won for the first time in two years, and San Diego won on the road.

The Padres have taken the first two games of the series after dropping two of three to the Dodgers last week in San Diego, and have won a season-best three in a row overall.

Giants 7, Astros 6 (10): Brandon Crawford’s RBI single in the 10th inning lifted San Francisco to a win at Houston.

Aston Slater singled off Cy Sneed (0-3) to start the 10th and send Wilmer Flores to third after missing eight games to rest and treat a hamstring trouble, which began exchanging words with a gesturing Citron then left first base, throw down his batting helmet and began sprinting toward the 41-year-old Citron.

Astronaut catcher Dustin Garneau tackled Laureano before the A’s outfielder got to the hitting coach. Laureano is a former Astros player and the rival clubs have been the top two in the AL West the past two years.

MLB suspends Astros coach for 20 games, Athletics’ Laureano 6

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Houston Astros hitting coach Alex Cintron received a 20-game suspension and a fine Tuesday for his role in a benches-clearing brawl at Oak-

land, while Athletics outfielder Ramon Laureano was given a six-game suspension and a fine.

Cintron’s suspension is the longest for an on-field transgression in 15 years, since Texas pitcher Kenny Rogers received 20 games for his altercation with two cam-

eramen in 2005. ‘‘I accept MLB’s suspension and will learn from this,’’ Cintron said.

in a statement. ‘‘Although I never referenced Ramon’s mother, my actions were inappropriate. I apologize for my part in Sunday’s unfortunate incident. As coaches, we are held to a higher standard and should be an example to the players. Hopefully, other coaches will learn from my mistake so that this never happens again in the future.”

Laureano appealed, so his discipline didn’t begin Tuesday night in Oakland’s game against the Angels. He was in the lineup, batting second and playing center field at Angel Stadium.

Laureano was hit by a pitch from Humberto Castellanos with one out in the seventh inning of Oakland’s 7-2 victory Sunday. He began exchanging words with a gesturing Citron then left first base, throw down his batting helmet and began sprinting toward the 41-year-old Citron.

Astronaut catcher Dustin Garneau tackled Laureano before the A’s outfielder got to the hitting coach. Laureano is a former Astros player and the rival clubs have been the top two in the AL West the past two years.

Yankees 9, Braves 6: Aaron Judge dented an advertisement with a torching home run run after making an unusual early exit, Jordan Montgomery pitched efficiently against a lineup missing its brightest young star and host New York beat Atlanta.

The Braves scratched Ronald Acuna Jr. about 90 minutes before first pitch with a sore left wrist.

Reds 5, Royals 10: Joey Votto doubled home the winning run in the 10th and Cincinnati blew another late lead before rallying past visiting Kansas City.

The Royals tied it 5-5 in the eighth on Ryan McBroom’s pinch-hit, two-run homer off Amir Garrett, but they couldn’t keep their four-game winning streak going.

Orioles 10, Phillies 9 (10): Austin Hays hit a two-run, inside-the-park homer in the 10th inning to lift Baltimore over Philadelphia.

Bryce Harper hit a tying, two-run homer in the eighth and Jean Segura gave the Phillies a 6-5 lead with a solo shot two outs later. But closer Hector Neris couldn’t hold it.

Rays 8, Red Sox 2: Mike Brosseau led off the game with a home run, Yandy Diaz and Hunter Renfroe each had two RBIs and Tampa Bay won at Boston.

Brosseau, Diaz and Manuel Margot had multi-hit games as the Rays won their fourth straight game.

Brewers 5, Twins 2: Jedd Gyorko blasted a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning as host Milwaukee came from behind to beat Minnesota.

The Brewers started their winning rally when Christian Yelich beat the Twins’ shift with a one-out double.

Rangers 4, Mariners 2: Nick Solak singled three times and drove in three runs, leading host Texas to a victory over Seattle.

Solak had a two-run single in the first and an RBI hit in third, when Willie Calhoun added another run-scoring single. Calhoun’s hit scored slugger Joey Gallo, who was hit by a pitch twice and walked his other two times up.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 7: Charlie Blackmon raised his batting average to .500 with three hits, including a key double during a six-run burst in the eighth inning that led host Colorado over Arizona.

After starting out the year 0-for-9, Blackmon has hit in 15 straight games. He’s 34-for-68 through 17 games.
Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, shoots as Dallas Mavericks forward Dorian Finney-Smith blocks Smith attempts to block during the Trail Blazers’ 134-131 win Tuesday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Portland guard ties career high to lead team past Mavs, into 8th place

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, shoots as Dallas Mavericks forward Dorian Finney-Smith blocks Smith attempts to block during the Trail Blazers’ 134-131 win Tuesday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Associated Press
LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Damian Lillard tied his career high with 61 points, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 134-131 on Tuesday night to move into eighth place in the Western Conference.

The Blazers will clinch a spot in the play-in series for the last playoff spot out West with a win Thursday against Brooklyn.

"I kind of wanted more," Lillard said of the playoffs. "When I look back on my career, I don't want to look back and think, 'What if' or 'Why didn't I fight for it.'"

Lillard said of the playoffs. "When I look back on my career, I don't want to look back and think, 'What if' or 'Why didn't I fight for it.'"

Mikal Bridges had 24 points for Phoenix, which pulled into a ninth-place tie in the Western Conference with Memphis, a half-game behind new No. 8 Portland.

Kings 112, Pelicans 106
NEW ORLEANS — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio put Memphis in a 19-point deficit in the first half. The Spurs tied the Wizards for the conference’s third seed, won 134-131 on Tuesday, and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio.

Keldon Johnson had 24 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Spurs, who have already locked up the Eastern Conference’s third seed, won 134-131 on Tuesday, and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio.

Luka Doncic had 25 points and 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who lost 114-107 on Tuesday.

Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points and eight rebounds, and the L.A. Clippers won 134-131 at Orlando.

Booker became the Suns’ all-time leading scorer with the win.

Spurs 123, Rockets 105:
SAN ANTONIO — Carmelo Anthony added 26 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who have already locked up the Eastern Conference’s third seed, won 134-131 on Tuesday, and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio.

Lillard made nine three-pointers and Phoenix protected its playoff hopes by beating Philadelphia to remain undefeated in the NBA restart.

Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 53 (Hill 10), Portland 46 (Lillard 11, Jusuf Nurkic 10).

For the Spurs, who have already locked up the Eastern Conference’s third seed, won 134-131 on Tuesday, and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio.

Bucks 122, Wizards 113:
WASHINGTON — Both teams eliminated with the win.

Boston 112, Mavericks 107:
BOSTON — DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points for the Spurs, who have won five of seven since arriving in the Florida bubble.

The Western Conference is guaranteed to have a play-in for its playoff spot, and San Antonio.

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The final spot, but made sure it couldn’t be eliminated Tuesday with the win.

Russell Westbrook had 20 points and seven turnovers in his first game back in the lineup for Houston after missing two games with a bruised right quadriceps.

Suns 130, 76ers 117:
DEVIK: After missing two games with a bruised right quadriceps.

During a break in the action with Milwaukee challenging the call, Antetokounmpo approached Wagner on the way to the bench and started jawing at him before headbutting him and drawing the ejection.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning NBA MVP, finished with 12 points and seven turnovers in his first game back in the lineup for Houston after missing two games with a bruised right quadriceps.

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Lillard made nine three-pointers in his sixth 30-point game of the season. He’s the 12th player in NBA history to score 30 points in back-to-back games after dropping 59 on the 76ers on Sunday.

Carmelo Anthony added 26 points on 10-for-17 shooting for Portland.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 36 points and Luka Doncic had 25 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who will finish No. 7 in the West.

Suns 123, Rockets 105:
Suns 130, 76ers 117:
Bucks 122, Wizards 113:
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Celtics 122, Grizzlies 107
BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, and Boston put Memphis in further danger of missing the playoffs.

The Grizzlies missed another 3-point attempt in the final minute and were down 120-107 with 2 minutes left.

New Orleans at Orlando

Three-Point Goals—Portland 15-39 (Lillard 5-11, McCollum 2-4, Trent 1-3, Hedo 1-2, Haws Jr. 4-9, McCollum 2-4, Trent 1-3, Hedo 1-2, Haws Jr. 4-9, McCollum 2-4, Trent 1-3, Hedo 1-2, Haws Jr. 4-9).

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Jahlil Okafor led New Orleans with 21 points.Lonzo Ball added 16 points while making four three-pointers.

Nets 108, Magic 96: Jerem-
Lightning outlast Jackets in 5OT

Point ends 4th-longest game in history, gives Tampa 1-0 series lead

Associated Press

TORONTO — By the time he launched the last shot, Brayden Point was just trying to do anything he could to end the fourth-longest game in NHL history.

"I just see a rolling puck and I just throw it on net," Point said after scoring 10:27 into the fifth overtime to give the Tampa Bay Lightning a 3-2 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets in their playoff opener Tuesday.

"I'm not really aiming," he added. "Just sling one there and lucky enough it found a corner."

Point scored from just above the left circle, beating Joonas Korpisalo after the goaltender made an NHL-record 85 saves. The 24-year-old forward also scored back at the beginning of the first period of Game 1 of the best-of-seven series.

Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevsky bought time for Point and Co. with 61 saves for Tampa Bay. The teams combined for 151 shots — the most in an NHL game since the league began officially tracking the statistic in 1955-56.

"It's tiring for sure but then it gets fun at some point," Point said. "I don't know how many guys played a game like that, that long. It was an exciting one."

The teams are meeting in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year, with the Lightning looking to rebound from being swept 16 months ago by the underdog Blue Jackets, who became the first No. 8 seed to oust the winner of the Presidents' Trophy in four games.

Pierre-Luc Dubois scored on the power play and Oliver Bjorkstrand added a goal late in regulation to give the Columbus Blue Jackets a 2-1 lead into the third period as the Eastern Conference opener Tuesday.

Yanni Gourde had the other goal for the second-seeded Lightning, who got the game-winner from Point shortly after Columbus was denied a chance to potentially end the six-hour marathon with Cam Atkinson barreling in on Vasilevsky on a short-handed breakaway.

Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman caught up to Atkinson, though, before pushing him to the ice while flicking the puck away. No penalty was called.

"Don't ask me about the noncall," Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella said.

Columbus defenseman Seth Jones, who logged an NHL-record 65 minutes, six seconds of ice time, said the officials didn't say why a penalty was not called.

"I'd like them to come up here and give an explanation," Jones said.

Tortorella, meanwhile, looked ahead. Asked what advice he had given his team, which played an overtime game for the third time in six days.

"Get some rest and get ready to play the next game," the coach said.

Flames upend Stars in Game 1

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Rasmus Andersson snapped a tie after Dillon Dube scored twice in the first period for the confident Calgary Flames, who beat the Dallas Stars 3-2 in Game 1 of their best-of-seven Western Conference playoff series Tuesday.

"It feels good. You can feel the chemistry in the room and the trust between the guys," Flames defensive Tj Brodie said. "It definitely feels different than previous years.

Andersson scored on a rush with four minutes left in the second period, with the defensive taking a strong shot and the puck skirting over the top of defenseman Andrej Sekera's stick blade on its way to the net.

"I saw a little angle and I just went for the slot and luckily it went in," Andersson said.

After outscoring the Winnipeg Jets 16-6 to win their best-of-five qualifying round in four games, the Flames jumped ahead in this series.

Cam Talbot stopped 24 shots for the Flames, including a power-play attempt by Joe Pavelski with 10 seconds left in the game.

Dallas already had an extra skater on the ice after sending goalie Anton Khudobin to the bench, and then had a 6-on-4 advantage because of a mistake by captain Mark Giordano.

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Roundup

The 36-year-old defenseman, who has spent all 14 of his NHL seasons with the Flames, got a delay-of-game penalty after knocking the puck out of play when trying to clear it with 49 seconds left.

But Dallas got only one shot on goal in that final stretch, the attempt by Pavelski, whose goal with 31 seconds left pushed the Stars into overtime Sunday when they won their last game in the round robin under the conference's top four seeds.

"The last 50 seconds, I thought we battled really hard and we got away with it," Anderson said.

Khudobin, who in 10 NHL seasons had never started a postseason game before last week's round-robin play, had 23 saves.

Golden Knights 4, Blackhawks 1

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An crumpling college football season took a massive hit Tuesday when the Big Ten and Pac-12, two historic and powerful conferences, succumbed to the pandemic and canceled their fall football seasons.

Five months almost to the day after the first spikes in coronavirus cases in the U.S. led to the cancellation of the NCAA basketball tournaments, the still raging pandemic is tearing down another American sports institution: fall Saturdays filled with college football.

“This was an extremely difficult and painful decision that we know will have important impacts on our student-athletes, coaches, administrators and our fans,” Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said. “We know nothing will ease that.”

Despite pleas from players, coaches and President Donald Trump in recent days to play on, 40% of major college football teams have now decided to punt on a fall season, a decision that will cost schools tens of millions of dollars and upends traditions dating back a century.

Both conferences cited the risk of trying to keep players from contracting and spreading the coronavirus when the programs are not operating in a bubble like the NBA and NHL are doing. They also cited the broader state of the pandemic in the United States, which has had more than 5 million cases of COVID-19.

“Every life is critical,” first-year Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren told the AP. “We wanted to make sure we continually, not only in our words but in our actions, do put the health and safety and wellness of our student-athletes first.”

Two smaller conferences, the Mid-American and Mountain West, had already announced the uncertain move to spring football. The decisions by the deep-pocketed Big Ten and Pac-12, with hundred million-dollar television contracts and historic programs, shook the foundation of college sports.

What’s next?

Although the Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference and Big 12 remain committed for now to fall football, the season is in serious jeopardy with 40% of Power Five teams on the sideline until at least spring.

Wish we could have had a little bit more time to evaluate, but we certainly understand this was the time we had to pull the plug.”

Gene Smith
Ohio State AD