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Biden picks Kamala Harris as running mate

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." 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. In adding Harris to the ticket, he can point to her relatively centrist 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.

Marines' Ospreys fill need in debut at Saber Junction

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, 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.

Training with Marines and Ospreys allows 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 U.S. troops would be withdrawn from, where they would go, and how many

troops would be affected by a reduction in the number of forces ordered by President Donald Trump.

Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, the other training area hosting Saber Junction, were not among the military installations slated to be closed.

About half the troops who will leave Germany will return to the 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 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.

US military delivers aid to Lebanon's capital

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,” USAREUR 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 home-

less. 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 about 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been left in a port warehouse for several years, despite repeated warn-

ings about the danger.

Economic losses were estimated at 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. 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.

Analysts say Taliban likely to oppose permanent US presence in Afghanistan

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 said.

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 of the International Crisis Group, which 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 train, recruit or raise funds.

The U.S. already has fewer than 9,000 service members 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.

NCIS probing troop's death in Bahrain

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 responsibility] to ensure command and control of forces at sea, from the sea and ashore,” according to the Marines.

From staff reports

Pompeo vows to help others in area avoid Belarus' fate

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 postelection 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.

2 conservative Ga. districts pick GOP House nominees

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.

Republicans in northeast Georgia's 9th District chose gun dealer and Navy veteran Andrew Clyde, spurning anti-establishment rebel and state Rep. Matt Gurtler. Democrats also chose nominees in the 9th District and in coastal Georgia's 1st District.

Greene led a nine-way June primary and beat Rome neurosurgeon John Cowan on Tuesday. Greene's victory came despite national criticism over her support for conspiracy theories, her racist and anti-Semitic remarks, and opposition by some high-profile Republicans. A vocal Donald Trump supporter, Greene said she ran for Congress to defend the country against socialists, protesters and those who tear down Confederate monuments.

Greene will face Democratic candidate Kevin Van Ausdal in November.

In the 9th Congressional District, Clyde narrowly trailed state Rep. Matt Gurtler in a nine-way primary in June, but reaped support and endorsements from many state Republicans.

On the Democratic side, Army veteran Devin Pandy won the nomination in the district. He defeated Brooke Siskin in Tuesday's runoff after trailing her in a three-way June primary.

Former lawyer Joyce Marie Griggs, an Iraq combat veteran, won a runoff for the Democratic nomination in Georgia's 1st Congressional District, overcoming questions about her disbarment. Griggs beat 2018 Democratic nominee Lisa Ring on Tuesday.

Minn. 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 a 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 Cori Bush, 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 conservative 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.

John Hildebrand, a 47-year-old teacher in Minneapolis who voted for Omar, said her national profile is an advantage.

"I think just her presence encourages other Muslims and Somalis to run for office and to seek to be represented," he said. "I think she just engages people in the political system more and more."

Blake Smith, 23, a parks worker who is Black and described himself as a leftist, also backed Omar. He's concerned about climate change, Medicare for all and getting money out of politics, and he sees her as an ally.

"It's more time for radical change than small — I don't think we have time for incremental change anymore," Smith said.

Virus hurt efforts to keep Facebook clean

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — 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.

The company said Tuesday that it has brought 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 dehumanizing depictions of Jewish people that include images or other depictions of Jewish people running the world or controlling major institutions such as media networks, the economy or the government.

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 will 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 826 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 the state Department of Public Health. The state is currently averaging reports of more than 60 deaths each day.

Of the fatalities reported Tuesday, Department of Pub-

lic 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 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 Star Press reported.

It's the largest student quarantine in the state reported, topping the roughly 48 students affected in the Lanesville Community Schools in southern Indiana's Harrison County.

The Delaware Community Schools quarantine affected 153 students at Delta High School, 68 at Delta Middle School and seven others at two elementary schools.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Having tested negative for COVID-19 after feeling ill, Kentucky's governor said Tuesday that the experience gave him "newfound empathy" for people dealing with the anxiety of waiting for their own test results.

Gov. Andy Beshear said he and his family tested negative for the coronavirus. But he described it as a "real scare" after he showed symptoms Tuesday morning that might suggest someone has the virus.

The Democratic governor said he immediately isolated himself and canceled afternoon events. He was tested a few hours later and it came back negative, Beshear said in a video statement.

Beshear 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 re-

ported eight more virus-related deaths, raising the statewide death count to 783.

Montana

HELENA — Montana is allocating \$50 million to increase the availability of child care in response to COVID-19, Gov. Steve Bullock said Tuesday.

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

The majority of the funding, \$30 million, will be distributed in grants to providers who care for school-age children out of school time, officials said. The money can be used to address health and safety needs related to COVID-19, tuition, transportation, training, and other expenses to maintain and expand care for school-age children.

The governor's announcement came on the same day as the state announced two new COVID-19 related deaths, bringing Montana's death toll from the virus to 77.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — Campus workers in the University of North Carolina system have filed a lawsuit saying working conditions are unsafe and that workers are reporting for work with inadequate protective equipment amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Some university employees, including housekeepers and other campus workers, are provided one or two masks per week and many don't have access to face shields or gowns, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Tuesday, citing a statement from the N.C. Public Service Workers Union.

The case was filed in Wake County on Monday and seeks class-action status.

The group, which represents housekeepers, professors and other staff, is asking the court to require that the UNC System "fulfill its non-delegable duty to provide conditions of employment and a place of employment free of hazards that are likely to cause serious harm, even death, to employees," ac-

cording to the union.

Texas

AUSTIN — Texas surpassed 500,000 confirmed coronavirus cases Tuesday as Republican Gov. Greg Abbott suggested family and neighborhood gatherings are behind a sharp rise in the rate of positive tests, which has climbed to record levels just as schools are beginning to reopen across the state.

He also said more testing in Texas is likely after dropping off in recent weeks, a trend seen across the United States even as deaths mount. Texas has reported more than 1,400 new deaths over the past week, including 220 on Tuesday.

Although health officials have said that there are encouraging signs in Texas — particularly hospitalization levels that have dropped more than 30% since July's peak — infection rates have been on a steady increase. On Tuesday, the rolling average of positive cases over the past seven days jumped to 24%, by far the highest of the pandemic, according to figures from the state Department of Health Services.

Washington

OLYMPIA — Some coronavirus restrictions on in-person worship have been relaxed for churches under new guidance issued by Gov. Jay Inslee.

The Tacoma News-Tribune reported that the guidance issued late Monday includes worship, religious study classes, religious ceremonies and religious holiday celebrations.

While drive-in services or remote sessions are still the recommended option, counties in Phase 1 of the state's reopening plan can hold outdoor services for up to 100 people, with a required six feet of distancing and facial coverings worn by those who attend.

In Phase 2, 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.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

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 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 spokesman 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 since beginning 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 Berry, assistant vice president for outreach.

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.

Museum officials said the roughly \$225,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will help build an online collections website with free public access to 7,000 of its more than 35,000 artifacts. The digital collections will include high-resolution 360-degree photographs. The two-year projects start next month with help from Chicago Public Schools teachers.

2 charged with trying to crash into police HQ

IA MUSCATINE — Two Iowa men face several charges after authorities said they tried to crash a vehicle into the Muscatine police

headquarters.

Muscatine Police said the two Muscatine men were arrested after their vehicle became stuck on a brick planter outside the Muscatine Public Safety Building. No one was injured. Police said Gilberto Daniel Castillo III, 24, and Marc Anthony Castillo, 21, were arrested on suspicion of terrorism second-degree criminal mischief. The 24-year-old was also charged with drunken driving, and the 21-year-old was charged with public intoxication.

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 until it became entangled on top of a parking garage when he hit the apart-

ment building, which is across the street from the park.

State Fair to go on as planned but virtually

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Next month's New Mexico State Fair is going all virtual.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported that organizers plan to hold the fair entirely online to circumvent challenges from the coronavirus pandemic. There will still be 4-H and Future Farmers of America virtual competitions. Musicians who would have performed live will do so digitally. Vendors will also be selling merchandise on the fair's web page.

The fair runs from Sept. 14 through Sept. 20.

Police: Man steals SUV with 2 kids inside

SC NORTH CHARLESTON — A shoplifting suspect claimed to be high on methamphetamine when he stole an SUV with two small children inside, authorities in South Carolina said.

The Post and Courier reported that the suspect was caught after leading police on a chase in North Charleston.

Police said that the children, ages 2 and 6, were not harmed.

The chase happened after police were told shoplifters were at a North Charleston store. When an officer approached one suspect, authorities said he pushed a shopping cart into her, then stole the SUV with the children inside.

Gary Jamar Nelson, 55, of North Charleston, was charged with kidnapping, assaulting a police officer while resisting arrest, shoplifting and other charges, according to jail records.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Big Ten, Pac-12 pull plug on fall sports

Associated Press

Acrumbling 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?

The Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference released statements expressing cautious 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.

"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," 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 had both suggested Monday that if the Big Ten did not play their schools might look elsewhere for games.

Portland holds off Orlando to win MLS is Back final

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Soaked in sweat and doused in water, the Portland Timbers hoisted the MLS is Back trophy at midfield and then headed toward a giant TV screen filled with fans cheering from afar.

It was a huge Zoom party. It might just be the way to celebrate championships in 2020.

Dario Zuparic's first goal of the season gave Portland a 2-1 victory against Orlando in Major League Soccer's return tournament finale Tuesday night, capping a monthlong event that showed sports can be played safely inside a bubble.

"I always think the more

difficult the fight is the more beautiful the victory is at the end," said Portland's Larrys Mabilia, who scored the first goal.

Orlando was slow to react to Diego Valeri's corner kick in the 66th minute, allowing Eryk Williamson to collect the ball, change direction and take a shot that Jeremy Ebobisse deflected to Zuparic's feet. Zuparic didn't have to do much to get it by Pedro "The Octopus" Gallese, who had made two fantastic saves in the lead-up to the corner kick.

The goal started the celebration on Portland's sideline and sent Orlando into panic mode. The Lions had a chance in the

closing minutes, but failed to get the equalizer.

"It's a group of players in a lot of pain right now," Orlando coach Oscar Pareja said. "Things didn't bounce our way. We made a couple of mistakes."

The Timbers, who spent 39 days in the MLS bubble and remained on West Coast time, hugged and danced after the final whistle. They raised the silver trophy while hooting and hollering. But the lasting image will be players and coaches waving at a camera and reaching hundreds back home.

It ended a wild month for the MLS, which managed to play 51 matches in 45 days at ESPN's

Wide World of Sports complex at Disney World.

No family. No friends. No fans.

But it was by most accounts a rousing success, especially considering how it started. FC Dallas and Nashville were forced to withdraw days before the start because of positive coronavirus tests.

Players, coaches and support personnel were tested regularly inside the MLS bubble. The league reported just two positives out of nearly 35,000 tests following the initial setbacks that threatened to derail a tournament that came with a \$1.1 million purse.

MLB roundup

‘Buffalo’ Blue Jays top Marlins in 10th

Associated Press

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 re-fitted 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 couple of blocks from Lake Erie and seating nearly 17,000, was empty because of the virus outbreak.

“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-all.

Logan Forsythe then nearly

put the Marlins ahead with a long drive in the 10th that originally was ruled a two-run homer, then reversed to a foul ball on review — the replay cameras were among the upgrades made at the park to get it up to big league standards.

There had not been a major league game in Buffalo since Sept. 8, 1915, when the Blues swept a doubleheader from the Baltimore Terrapins at Federal League Park. Those teams were part of the short-lived Federal League.

Angels 6, Athletics 0: Dylan Bundy threw seven scoreless innings of four-hit ball, Jason Castro hit a three-run homer and host Los Angeles defeated Oakland and won back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Anthony Rendon, Castro and Brian Goodwin homered in the fourth off Mike Fiers (1-1), and David Fletcher homered in the sixth inning to give the Angels back-to-back home games with at least four homers for the first time in franchise history.

That was more than enough offense for Bundy (3-1), who struck out 10 with one walk.

Padres 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.

Austin Slater singled off Cy Sneed (0-3) to start the 10th and send Wilmer Flores to third after he started on second under the new extra-innings rules. Crawford then followed with his grounder to center field to score Flores.

White Sox 8, Tigers 4: Eloy Jimenez hit a three-run homer in the first inning, and Chicago won on the road to snap Detroit’s four-game winning streak.

Cubs 7, Indians 1: Jon Lester looked comfortable on a mound where he helped make history and Jason Heyward hit a three-run homer, leading Chicago to a win at Cleveland, which welcomed back manager Terry Francona after a couple of bumpy days.

Nationals 2, Mets 1: Max Scherzer showed no effects of hamstring trouble, navigating heavy traffic early for his first win this season, and Trea Turner hit a record-breaking leadoff homer to help Washington win at New York.

Yankees 9, Braves 6: Aaron Judge dented an advertisement with a scorching home run before making an unusual early exit, Jordan Montgom-

ery pitched efficiently against a lineup missing its brightest young star and host New York beat Atlanta.

Reds 6, Royals 5 (10): Joey Votto doubled home the winning run in the 10th and Cincinnati blew another late lead before rallying past visiting Kansas City.

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

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.

Brewers 6, Twins 4: 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.

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.

MLB suspends Cintron for 20 games, A’s Laureano for 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 Oakland, 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 cameramen 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.

NHL roundup

Lightning outlast Blue Jackets in 5OT

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 finds 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 way back in the first period of Game 1 of the best-of-seven series.

Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevskiy 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 the second period to give Columbus — the No. 7 seed in the

Eastern Conference — a pair of short-lived leads in regulation.

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 Vasilevskiy on a short-handed breakaway.

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

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

After outscoring the Win-

nipeg 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.

Golden Knights 4, Blackhawks 1: Shea Theodore and William Carrier scored 2:17 apart midway through the second period, Robin Lehner made 19 saves against his former team, and Vegas beat Chicago in Game 1 of the teams' first-round playoff matchup.

Reilly Smith scored twice in the third period as the top seed in the Western Conference maintained its high-scoring ways. The Golden Knights scored 15 goals in the three seeding games and didn't slow down against the Blackhawks.

NBA roundup

Lillard scores 61 points as Blazers holds off Mavs

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.

"Ain't nothing I want more," Lillard said of the playoffs. "When I came here (to Disney World) I told them I'm not here to waste my time. Our work ain't done yet but we're fighting for it."

Lillard made nine three-pointers in his sixth 50-point game of the season. He's the 12th player in NBA history to score 50 points in back-to-back

games after dropping 51 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.

Spurs 123, Rockets 105: Keldon Johnson had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio kept alive its chance of becoming the first team in NBA history to make 23 consecutive playoff appearances.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points for the Spurs, who have won five of seven since arriving in the Florida bubble.

Suns 130, 76ers 117: Devin Booker scored 35 points and Phoenix protected its playoff hopes by beating Philadelphia to remain undefeated in

the NBA restart.

Booker became the Suns' career leader with his 91st 30-point game, breaking a tie with Walter Davis.

Celtics 122, Grizzlies 107: Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, and Boston put Memphis in further danger of missing the playoffs.

The Grizzlies missed another chance to guarantee themselves a spot in the West play-in series. They dropped to ninth in the conference with Portland's victory over Dallas.

Bucks 126, Wizards 113: Brook Lopez scored 24 points and Milwaukee beat Washington after Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was ejected in the second quarter for head-butting Moritz Wagner.

Wagner took a charge from Antetokounmpo, who didn't like the call in what had become a

physical game early on.

Kings 112, Pelicans 106: Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, including 12 in the third quarter, and Sacramento earned its second win in the NBA restart — each over New Orleans.

With both teams eliminated from the playoffs, among the top starters given the night off were Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson and Kings leading scorer De'Aaron Fox.

Nets 108, Magic 96: Jeremiah Martin and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot each scored 24 points, leading Brooklyn to the victory.

Dzanan Musa added 17 points and Tyler Johnson had 14 for the Nets, who improved to 5-2 in the restart with their third straight victory.