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Senator Kamala Harris with Joseph R. Biden Jr. on Wednesday in Wilmington, Del. “Her story’s America’s story,” Mr. Biden said.

Lavish Homes Tie China Elite To Hong Kong

By ALEXANDRA STEVENSON and MICHAEL FORSYTHE
HONG KONG — Li Qianxin, the elder daughter of the Chinese Communist Party’s No. 3 leader, has quietly crafted a life in Hong Kong that traverses the city’s financial elite and the secretive world of Chinese politics. For years, she has mingled with senior executives of state companies through Hong Kong and mainland professional clubs known for grooming the sons and daughters of officials. She has represented Hong Kong in Chinese provincial political advisory groups. She is the chairwoman of a state-owned investment bank based in Hong Kong that has long done business with the relatives of top Chinese officials.

Ms. Li, 38, also has deep financial roots in the city, having bought a \$15 million, four-story townhouse perched high above a beach. Her partner owns a now-retired racehorse and spent hundreds of millions on a stake in the storied Peninsula Hotel that he later sold. Ms. Li and other members of the Communist nobility are embedded in the fabric of Hong Kong’s society and its financial system, binding the former British colony closer to the mainland. By building alliances and putting their money into Hong Kong’s real estate, China’s top leaders have inextricably linked themselves to the fate of the city. As the party now takes a stronger hand in running Hong Kong, Continued on Page A12

Back to School in Georgia: 1,193 Are Quarantined

By RICHARD FAUSSET
CANTON, Ga. — The first letter went out on Aug. 4, one day after students in the Cherokee County School District returned to their classrooms for the first time since the eruption of the coronavirus pandemic. “Dear Parents,” wrote Dr. Ashley Kennerly, the principal of Sixes Elementary School. “I am writing this letter in order to communicate that a student in 2nd grade has tested positive for Covid-19.” By the time the last bell rang on Friday afternoon, principals at 10

A District’s Reopening Amid Growing Cases Exposes Risks

other schools had sent similar letters to families in Cherokee County, a bucolic and politically conservative stretch of suburbs north of Atlanta. This week, more letters went out. Nearly 1,200 students and staff members in the district have already been ordered to quarantine. On Tuesday, one high school

closed its doors until at least Aug. 31. A second high school followed on Wednesday. While many of the nation’s largest school systems have opted to start the academic year online, other districts have forged ahead with reopening. In Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana and elsewhere, some schools, mainly in suburban and rural areas, have been open for almost two weeks. Their experience reveals the perils of returning to classrooms in places where the coronavirus has hardly been tamed. Students and teachers have immediately Continued on Page A7



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Caught in Beirut Fallout

Children who need chemotherapy have nowhere to turn after hospitals were destroyed. Page A11.

Hollywood Is Restarting Its Blockbuster Machine Far From Home

By NICOLE SPERLING and BROOKS BARNES
Like most actors, Bryce Dallas Howard is used to showing up on film sets knowing what lines she’s supposed to say, when she’s supposed to say them and, often, not much more. Things are very different on “Jurassic World: Dominion,” one of the first major Hollywood studio films to restart production

since the coronavirus pandemic led to a global shutdown in March. Before agreeing to return to Pinewood Studios outside London, Ms. Howard and other members of the cast grilled producers and executives from the studio behind the movie, Universal, through a series of Zoom calls and emails about what precautions were being taken. Ms. Howard now knows everything from how to attach her mi-

Actors Are Guinea Pigs for Vast Precautions

crophone before filming — she does it herself outside, with help from her dresser, as a boom operator wearing a mask and a shield instructs them — to the person who makes her bed at the luxury

hotel Universal has rented out for 20 weeks for the cast and crew. “Until now, actors were not really included in prep,” Ms. Howard said in a phone interview, referring to the moviemaking process as “a need-to-know-business.” “But in order to get any of us on a plane, we had to thoroughly understand the protocols, who was involved and hear second and third opinions. We are the guinea Continued on Page A6

BIDEN AND HARRIS VOW TO REVIVE U.S. AS TRUMP ATTACKS

G.O.P. Falls Back on Pattern of Insults

By ANNIE KARNI and JEREMY W. PETERS
WASHINGTON — Opening an ugly new chapter in the 2020 campaign, President Trump and allies in the Republican Party and on Fox News have swiftly gone all-in on sexist and personal attacks against Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, from Mr. Trump demeaning her as “angry” and “horrible” to commentators mocking her first name to comparing her to “payday lenders.” Hours after Ms. Harris was announced, Mr. Trump described her as “nasty” or “nastier” four times — terms he often uses for female opponents — and complained that her tough questioning was disrespectful to Brett M. Kavanaugh during Supreme Court confirmation hearings. And on Wednesday, after Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Ms. Harris held their first joint appearance, Mr. Trump claimed without evidence that Ms. Harris was furious when she left the Democratic primary race after falling in the polls.

“She left angry, she left mad,” he said. “There was nobody more insulting to Biden than she was.” One right-wing commentator, Dinesh D’Souza, appeared on Fox News to question whether Ms. Harris, the junior senator from California and a child of immigrants from Jamaica and India, could truly claim she was Black. And on Tuesday night, Tucker Carlson, the Fox News host, mispronounced her first name, even growing angry when corrected. “So what?” he said, when a guest told him it was pronounced “Comma-la.” (Fox News declined to comment on the exchange.) On Twitter, Eric Trump, one of the president’s sons, favorited a tweet, which was later deleted, that referred to Ms. Harris as a “whorendous pick.” Jenna Ellis, a senior legal adviser to the Trump campaign, posted during Ms. Harris’s first speech as Mr. Biden’s running mate on Wednesday, “Kamala sounds like Marge Simpson.”

Mr. Trump added to the barrage with a racist tweet on Wednesday morning claiming that Mr. Biden would put another Black leader, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, in charge of low-income housing. Continued on Page A16

First Taste of Clash Between Tickets

By KATIE GLUECK and THOMAS KAPLAN
WILMINGTON, Del. — Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Senator Kamala Harris made their debut as running mates in a high school gymnasium on Wednesday, pledging to lead the country out of the coronavirus crisis amid an onslaught of attacks from President Trump as the two national tickets went head-to-head for the first time, less than three months before Election Day. The first full day for the new Democratic presidential ticket offered a glimpse of how two once-bitter rivals from opposite coasts and different generations will try to unite Americans around their platform. Projecting warmth toward each other, they sketched out a vision of recovery from the nation’s crises surrounding public health, the economy and racial injustice — challenges that, they argued, Mr. Trump has made worse at every turn with an extraordinarily divisive presidency.

“We need more than a victory on Nov. 3,” Ms. Harris said. “We need a mandate that proves that the past few years do not represent who we are or who we aspire to be.” Ms. Harris, a Californian who once served as attorney general of the state, made clear that part of her campaign role would be demonstrating her skills as a prosecutor to build a case against Mr. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, methodically detailing what she cast as the administration’s failures in combating the coronavirus, reopening the economy and creating conditions under which schools could reopen safely this fall. “Let me tell you, as somebody who has presented my fair share of arguments in court, the case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut,” Ms. Harris said.

Other contours of Ms. Harris’s role in the campaign also started coming into focus on Wednesday. A Biden adviser described Ms. Harris as well positioned to connect with Black and Latino voters across the country as well as with suburban women, saying that the campaign expected her presence on the ticket to drive turnout in Arizona, Florida and Texas in particular. Continued on Page A15

On Apache Reservation, Clues To Keeping Down Death Toll

By GINA KOLATA and TOMÁS KARMELO AMAYA
The coronavirus is raging through the White Mountain Apache tribe. Spread across a large reservation in eastern Arizona, the Apaches have been infected at more than 10 times the rate of people in the state as a whole. Yet their death rate from Covid-19 is far lower, just 1.3 percent, as compared with 2.1 percent in Arizona. Epidemiologists have a hopeful theory about what led to this startling result: Intensive contact tracing on the reservation likely enabled teams that included doctors to find and treat gravely ill people before it was too late to save them. A crucial tool has been a simple, inexpensive medical device: an oximeter that, clipped to a finger, detected dangerously low blood oxygen levels in people who often didn’t even realize they were seriously ill. Contact tracing is generally used to identify and isolate the in-

fect, and to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Elsewhere in the United States, the strategy mostly is failing; the virus has spread too widely, and tracers are struggling to keep up. But on the reservation, contact tracers have discovered effective new tactics as they trek from home to faraway home. They may not have been able to stop the virus, but they have managed to prevent it from causing so many deaths. “This is really not about contact tracing cutting down spread,” said Dr. Arnold Monto, a professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Michigan who was not involved in the project but reviewed the findings. “Do it right, and the mortality will be lower.” “This could help with other hard-to-reach communities,” he added. “If we identify cases sooner, they won’t come in half Continued on Page A5



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‘No Slavery,’ but Close
Australian descendants of Pacific islanders are examining their 19th-century ancestors’ servitude. PAGE A10

U.S. Guns in the U.K.
Firearms smuggled into Britain are said to be contributing to a surge in gang-related crime there. PAGE A9

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Still Fighting Over Masks
A sheriff in Florida forbade his deputies to wear masks, with some exceptions, and also barred visitors to sheriff’s offices from wearing them. PAGE A6

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After Being Detained
Five New Yorkers describe the night they were arrested during Black Lives Matter demonstrations. PAGE A18

Regrets of a Policy Giant
In an oral history released after his death, Brent Scowcroft reflects on some of the failed decisions on Iraq. PAGE A17



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A Show (and a Walking Tour)
In the Covid era, some theaters stage scenes in parks and fields. Above, actors in a park on the Niagara Gorge. PAGE C1

Backing Classical Music Online
Tickets have been sold for livestream shows by performers like Renée Fleming, Daniil Trifonov and others. PAGE C3

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Death of a Media Mogul
Sumner Redstone, who was 97, was relentless in building a huge media empire that included CBS and Viacom and dominated the screen age. PAGE B1

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In Colleges, Confusion Wins
The Big 12 announced its football schedule, but TV networks will still reel from the decision by other conferences to postpone their seasons. PAGE B10

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New York, Motor City
Many city residents and workers had been lukewarm on car ownership. Then came the pandemic. Above, Troy Kelley, who commutes in his Mercedes. PAGE D1

