

Forensic sleuth ID's WWI vet remains

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

When Beverly Dillon's home phone rang on a late summer evening in 2019, she ignored it. She didn't recognize the number and assumed it was a pesky marketing call to her home in a small Montana town near Glacier National Park.

But as the caller began leaving a message on her old-fashioned answering machine — mentioning the surnames Vincent and McAllister — Dillon raced to pick up the phone.

"Yes! I was a Vincent before I was a Dillon, and my grandmother's maiden name was McAllister," the self-described "genealogy nut" recalled saying. "I nearly jumped out of my skin I was so excited."

On the other end of the line was Jay Silverstein, a forensic anthropologist who said he believed he had identified the remains of Pfc. Charles McAllister, her great-uncle who died in battle during World War I.

Silverstein had just retired from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Hawaii, the U.S. government's official agency tasked with bringing home the remains of the nation's missing war dead, but this was the one case he could not bear to leave unresolved. The remains had been stored at the agency's Hawaii lab for 15 years.

Dillon, now 80, and her son, Sean, submitted DNA samples to the Department of De-

fense DNA Registry in August 2019, for which she received a letter of receipt a few weeks later. It was the last contact she had from the government concerning the samples, she said. More than a year later, the case has gone nowhere.

Silverstein, who now teaches forensic anthropology in Russia, is frustrated with what he regards as DPAA's foot-dragging on a case he insists could have — should have — been completed years ago.

Silverstein's criticism of how the Defense Department operates its accounting effort is nothing new. He had been among the internal whistleblowers who complained of failings of the agency's predecessor, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

His complaints were among those that led the Defense Department to reorganize the effort to account for the nation's missing warfighters by creating the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, in 2015.

McAllister's remains have been stored in a box in DPAA's Hawaii laboratory since 2004 after being exhumed, along with a second set of remains, from a construction site by archaeologists in France the year before.

Silverstein's attention over the following years turned to recovery efforts in North Korea, Vietnam and Tarawa, but as America approached the 100th anniversary of its entry into World War I in April 2017, he pulled that unsolved case out for another look.

"The case always bothered me because I felt there was enough information there to follow up on," he said.

Silverstein said he spent his own time and money retrieving National Archives records in an effort to identify the remains. Volunteers helped with genealogical work to track down descendants of the five service members on his list.

He said a process of elimination has winnowed the list down to only McAllister, making further DNA testing unnecessary.

The case took on greater meaning to Silverstein after his initial hourlong conversation with Dillon last year.

On Dillon's family room wall hangs a framed letter that her great uncle sent to his sister Effie — Dillon's grandmother — on Dec. 3, 1917, from New York before shipping out for France.

Silverstein said in his Dec. 5 email that if DPAA has determined it is unable to "fulfill the responsibility our nation owes to Pfc McAllister, it is incumbent upon them to transfer the remains to another military mortuary authority as expeditiously, transparently and respectfully as possible."

"I don't think the family is concerned about what government authority oversees the identification of Charles McAllister," Silverstein said. "They do, however, think that his remains sitting in a cardboard box for 16 years in Hawaii is simply unacceptable."

Sailor saves life on Thanksgiving flight to Guam

Stars and Stripes

A sailor flying to a new assignment on Guam on Thanksgiving helped save the life of a fellow passenger who had gone into cardiac arrest, the Navy said in a statement Wednesday.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jake Farque, a master-at-arms newly assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Group 1 Detachment Guam, jumped into action Nov. 26 when a flight attendant asked if anyone on board had medical experience to assist a passenger experiencing a heart problem, according to the statement.

Trained as an emergency medical technician, Farque knew to ask the patient's wife for his medical history, "hook him up to an [automated external defibrillator] on board to monitor and put him on some oxygen," the sailor said in the statement.

"As a master-at-arms on Naval Base San Diego, I responded to numerous medical emergency calls," Farque said in the statement. "It was kind of the same; stabilize them until being able to get further medical care. The only difference was the time it took to get to additional care."

With three hours left before the plane could land, flight attendants contacted the airline's medical team and "determined the necessary procedures to follow," according to the statement.

Farque monitored the patient's vital signs until the plane reached the Guam airport, and first responders took the patient to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, according to the statement.

The statement did not indicate the patient's current condition or whether the flight was through a military or commercial airline.

Missing Roosevelt sailor declared dead

By CAITLIN DOORBOS
Stars and Stripes

The search is over for a missing USS Theodore Roosevelt sailor believed to have gone overboard Thursday morning off the coast of Southern California, 3rd Fleet said in a statement Sunday.

The Navy changed the sailor's status from missing to deceased after the 55-hour search ended at sunset Saturday, according to the statement.

The service has not yet publicly released the sailor's name, but family has been notified, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Friday.

The Coast Guard, guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill, littoral combat ship USS

Charleston, amphibious transport dock USS Portland, guided-missile destroyers USS Russell and USS Howard and Navy aircraft assisted in the search, which spanned more than 607 square miles, according to the statement.

"The entire Theodore Roosevelt team sends our deepest condolences to the family of our missing shipmate," the carrier's commander Capt. Eric Anduze said in the statement.

The incident remains under investigation, according to the statement.

The search began Thursday when a lookout "spotted what appeared to be a person in the water" at about 7:30 a.m., according to a Navy statement Friday. The carrier im-

mediately launched three search-and-rescue helicopters and a rigid-hull, inflatable boat in response.

A ship-wide muster discovered one sailor missing, according to the statement.

The sailor went missing just three days after the carrier left San Diego on Dec. 7 for a second deployment this year.

The Theodore Roosevelt has had a trying 2020, including a six-month Pacific deployment punctuated by a monthlong diversion to Guam to battle a coronavirus outbreak on board.

More than a quarter of the carrier's crew — 1,271 sailors — ultimately tested positive and one died, according to Navy medical personnel.

DOD bill cuts funds for new military hospital in Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Congress has slashed funding for a new U.S. military hospital in Germany, raising the prospect of more delays on a project that is already years behind schedule.

The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act cuts more than \$100 million from the Pentagon's \$200 million request, which was to be used for construction on a facility slated to replace the aging Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Last week, House lawmakers passed the defense bill, which allocated just \$82.4 million for the new hospital at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, across from the Ramstein Air Base east gate. The Senate approved the same measure Friday, though President Donald Trump has threatened a veto despite the bill passing by more than a two-thirds majority.

The Army Corps of Engineers and medical officials in Europe declined to comment on what the budget cuts mean for the project, which began nearly seven years ago and was intended to be done by 2021.

In July, the Army Corps said the target completion date is December 2025.

But that was before the impending budget cut, which suggests more delays are possible.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's budget had originally called for elim-

inating all funds for the new medical center. During negotiations with House lawmakers, \$82.4 million of the \$200 million request was eventually restored.

The NDAA called for an "incremental authorization of appropriations" in an amount equal to the military's ability to use the funds within the year they are appropriated.

Up until now, most of the work at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks site has been focused on infrastructure like utilities and supporting road work. The \$200 million was to go toward actual construction, Army officials said earlier this year.

It wasn't clear why Congress reduced the medical center's budget by such a large amount. The NDAA offered no rationale for the cuts.

However, lawmakers had voiced skepticism in past years about the scope of the project during its early planning phase, which was happening as the U.S. was drawing down forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and downsizing in Europe.

In 2014, Landstuhl was reduced from a comprehensive Level I trauma clinic to Level III, in connection with a large decline in the number of injured troops being evacuated from war zones for treatment.

The medical clinic is still the largest U.S. hospital overseas and supports forces in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Air Force cuts bonus-eligible job list down

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force announced Thursday it was slashing in half the number of specialties eligible in the Selective Retention Bonus program for fiscal year 2021 because of record-high retention levels.

Thirty-seven specialties are eligible for bonuses in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, compared to the 72 that qualified in the previous year. The Air Force offered bonuses in 115 specialties for fiscal year 2019.

The bonuses are intended to improve retention of experienced airmen and space professionals in "stressed career fields" or in those that have high training costs, the Air Force said in a news release.

"Overall retention levels are at record highs and manning within many of our career fields is healthy," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, in the news release. "This reduces our requirement and opportunity to utilize retention bonuses to the same extent."

The Air Force expects to pay out more than \$55 million in bonuses this year, a drop from the \$150 million spent the previous year.

The fiscal year 2021 program goes into effect Jan. 5.

Analysis: SCOTUS shoots down ‘big one’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It didn’t take the Supreme Court long to make short work of what President Donald Trump called “the big one.”

And as the court on Friday rejected a Texas-based lawsuit to overturn the election results, not even Trump’s three high court appointees were willing to rise to the defense of the president. Trump has been clinging to baseless claims of fraud in the hope of reversing election results that made Democrat Joe Biden the next president and

deprived Trump of four more years in the White House.

For all Trump’s predictions that the court and his justices would make things right, he and his supporters were lacking one basic element: a strong legal argument that might plausibly attract some sympathy on a court now dominated by conservative justices.

A Republican senator, Nebraska’s Ben Sasse, delivered a stinging summary of the court’s rebuke to Trump and his allies. Sasse said “every American who cares about the rule of law

should take comfort that the Supreme Court — including all three of President Trump’s picks — closed the book on the nonsense.” Sasse, a potential 2024 presidential candidate, has been one of the few Republicans willing to criticize Trump.

Following a string of legal setbacks in battleground states he lost in November, Trump had pinned his hopes on a desperate Supreme Court lawsuit that no Republican lawyer with high-court experience would touch. The suit was filed by Texas At-

torney General Ken Paxton and backed by 18 other Republican attorneys general and 126 GOP members of the House of Representatives. It asked the court to take the unprecedented, even outlandish, step of setting aside the 62 combined electoral votes for Biden in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The justices, acting late Friday, ended the suit as quickly as it began, saying in a mundane, three-sentence order that Texas had no right to question how other states conduct their elections.

Trucks with 1st vaccines in US ready to go out

Associated Press

The first trucks carrying a COVID-19 vaccine for widespread use in the United States were set to pull out of a Michigan manufacturing plant Sunday, with the shots that are critical to stopping the nation’s coronavirus outbreak destined to reach states a day later.

An assembly line of workers began in the early morning hours pulling doses out of a freezer, boxing the vaccine and loading the units onto pallets so they could be placed on trucks at a Pfizer plant in Michigan. Dry ice, shipping labels and packing tape were on hand as the workers — donning masks, face shields and gloves —

put together the packages inside the warehouse.

Shipments of the Pfizer vaccine will set in motion the biggest vaccination effort in American history at a critical juncture of the pandemic that has killed 1.6 million and sickened 71 million worldwide.

Federal officials say the first

shipments of Pfizer’s vaccine will be staggered, arriving in 145 distribution centers Monday, with an additional 425 sites getting shipments Tuesday, and the remaining 66 on Wednesday. The vaccine, co-developed by German partner BioNTech, is being doled out based on each state’s adult population.

Biden’s challenge: Build Cabinet that meets his goals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Shortly after President-elect Joe Biden’s victory last month, Cabinet hopeful Marcia Fudge pointedly noted that Black people are often typecast into positions such as housing secretary.

On Friday, Biden announced Fudge, a prominent Black congresswoman from Ohio, was his nominee for that very role. She was introduced alongside Biden’s pick for the job she initially sought, head of the Agriculture Department. That went instead to Tom Vilsack, a 70-year-old white man who already spent eight years in the position during the Obama administration.

Those nominations highlight the competing priorities Biden

is facing as he fills out the top ranks of his administration. He’s pledged to nominate the most diverse Cabinet in history and restore experience at beleaguered federal agencies.

Each of his nominees has to win confirmation in a narrowly divided Senate that could be controlled by Republicans, depending on who wins two runoff races in Georgia next month. The GOP has barely acknowledged Biden’s victory so the cooperation of its senators in the confirmation process is far from certain.

“There’s a lot of pressure, and part of the reason you saw such big turnout is that people are eager for change from the Trump years,” said Democratic strategist Karen Finney. “That cre-

ates a lot of high expectations.”

The challenge won’t get easier. Biden is facing a decision on attorney general that will come under intense scrutiny from Black leaders, who want someone with a background in civil rights advocacy, and Republicans who are demanding political independence as Biden’s son, Hunter, faces a federal investigation into his finances.

Some of those tensions emerged last week during a meeting between Biden and civil rights leaders who pressed the incoming president to diversify his Cabinet and warned about the Vilsack pick in particular. Vilsack has been criticized for the firing of department official Shirley Sherrod, who is Black, during his last stint at the US-

DA, a move he later apologized for.

“Vilsack could have a disastrous effect on voters in the state of Georgia,” NAACP President Derrick Johnson told Biden during the meeting, which was private.

The president-elect has several more Cabinet posts to fill, and has made history with some of his early selections. He nominated retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin to be the first Black person to lead the Pentagon, while picking California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to be the first Latino to lead the Health and Human Services Department. His nominee for U.S. trade envoy, Katherine Tai, was born in Connecticut to Taiwanese parents.

Schools closing as virus rises in Georgia

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A metro Atlanta school system said Saturday that it's shutting down in-person classes at three high schools until January because of surging coronavirus infections.

School officials in Cherokee County north of Atlanta sent letters Saturday to parents of students at River Ridge, Sequoyah and Woodstock high schools, saying Monday classes will all shift online. Students will also take final exams at home, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

They said each school had sent home between 285 and 476 students to quarantine after more than 20 students and staff tested positive for the virus at each campus. Students begin their holiday break Dec. 21, and administrators plan to reopen classrooms Jan. 6.

Scattered school closures have happened elsewhere in the state. School officials in Chatham County announced Friday that they're closing Windsor Forest High School in Savannah to in-person classes because of coronavirus infections among school staff. It will reopened to students Jan. 11.

Alaska

ANCHORAGE — Alaska reported 18 deaths from the coronavirus Saturday, the most in a single day, though it is unclear how many of those deaths were recent.

Public health officials have said there are delays in reporting cases to the state Department of Health and Social Services due to high volume, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

The state also reported 533 new confirmed cases from the coronavirus Saturday.

The 18 deaths involve 10 residents from Anchorage, two people from Kenai and one person each from the Delta Junction, Wasilla, Utqiagvik, the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, the Bethel Census Area and the Kusilvak Census Area, according to the state health department.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona on Saturday passed the 400,000 mark of known COVID-19 cases while reporting over 8,000 additional cases, one of the state's largest daily case figures since the pandemic began.

The Department of Health Services reported 8,076 additional known cases and 77 additional deaths, increasing the state's totals to 402,589 cases and 7,322 deaths.

The additional 8,076 cases reported Saturday eclipsed Friday's report of 6,983 additional cases as the third-largest daily case report, behind 12,314 on Tuesday and 10,322 on Dec. 1.

According to the state's coronavirus dashboard, COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Friday reached 3,534, up from 3,482 on Thursday and topping the summer surge's high of 3,517 on July 13. Of the patients hospitalized Friday, 799 were in intensive care unit beds, down from 809 on Thursday.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas health officials on Saturday reported 36 more deaths due to COVID-19, and the seven-day rolling average of daily deaths in the state has increased by nearly 40%.

The state Department of Health reported a total of 2,911 deaths since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Data from Johns Hopkins University shows the rolling average of Arkansas deaths rose from 16.4 per day on Nov. 27 to 41.3 on Friday.

The health department reported 2,628 newly confirmed or probable cases for a total of 184,252 and 1,071 people hospitalized. The Johns Hopkins data shows the average number of new cases in the state has increased from 1,680 per day to 2,069 since Nov. 27.

California

FRESNO — The number of available intensive care unit beds in California's San Joaquin Valley plummeted to zero for the first time Saturday, state officials announced as ICU units fill up statewide amid spiking COVID-19 cases.

Just a day earlier, the region's ICU capacity was at 4.5%, according to the California Department of Public Health.

The region comprised of 12 counties in central California, along with the enormous Southern California region, contain more than 60% of the state's 40 million residents. Last week, the two regions were ordered to follow the strictest anti-COVID-19 rules under a new state stay-at-home order that aims to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed by restricting infectious contacts.

The 0% calculated by the state doesn't mean all hospitals have run out of intensive care unit beds, and in Stanislaus County, 3.6% of ICU beds were available as of Saturday, said Kamlesh Kaur, a spokeswoman for the county's public health department.

Hawaii

HONOLULU — Hawaii prison officials said an additional 63 inmates and six staff members have tested positive for the coronavirus at a state prison.

The outbreak has left 68 inmates and 21 staff members infected with the virus at the Halawa Correctional Facility in Oahu, Hawaii News Now reported Friday. There are 936 inmates at the facility, all of whom are now being tested.

A lockdown has been instituted in the facility that suspended all inmate movement and blocked transfers to and from the prison. The quarantine will last for at least two weeks.

This is the third major outbreak at a Hawaii prison since the pandemic began. The Oahu Community Correctional Center has had 449 inmates test positive for the virus, while the number of inmates infected with the coronavirus at the Waiawa Community Correctional Center in Waipahu is over 200. More than 600 Hawaii inmates have also tested positive for the virus at a privately owned prison in Arizona.

Texas

AUSTIN — There were 13,254 newly reported coronavirus cases and 235 additional deaths in Texas on Saturday, according to the state health department.

There have been 1,321,578 total cases reported and 23,800 people have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

The health department reported that the number of hospitalizations increased slightly from Friday, rising from 9,109 to 9,192.

The seven-day rolling average of new cases in the state rose from 10,621 per day on Nov. 27 to 11,295 on Friday, and the rolling average of deaths increased from 130 to 185 per day during the same time period, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Washington

SEATTLE — Washington state has started distributing free N95 masks in bulk to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The Seattle Times reported in a story Saturday that the first shipments went out after the Department of Health approved a plan to distribute masks to counties and tribes.

The state has shipped about 6 million N95 masks over the last month. That's as many masks sent out as in the first eight months of the pandemic.

Police: Hair from horse tails stolen, likely sold

NC NASHVILLE — Authorities in North Carolina said that hair is being cut from horses' tails and is likely being sold.

The Raleigh News & Observer reported that the thefts are being reported by the Nash County Sheriff's Office.

The office said in a statement that it has received reports that "unknown suspects" have been going to pastures to take the animals' hair.

"Apparently there is a high demand for horse hair and they are selling the hair," the sheriff's office wrote in a Facebook post.

This is not the first time authorities in North Carolina have reported a horse's tail hair was stolen.

The Camden County Sheriff's Office in the eastern part of the state said in March that thieves had sheared the tail of a show horse named Thunder. The department said at the time that the hair could be used to make wigs, art projects and fishing line.

Man accused of shooting flare gun at courthouse

IA CEDAR RAPIDS — A Cedar Rapids man accused of shooting a flare gun at the city's federal courthouse and igniting a small fire was charged with several federal counts in the case.

John Miller, 39, was charged with malicious damage to federal property, violent threats to a federal official and interstate communications with intent to injure, The Gazette reported.

Prosecutors said Miller fired two flares at the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids on Nov. 19 from a parking lot across the street. One flare ignited a traffic barrier outside the building that had to be extinguished. Officials said police later found two flare guns in Miller's possession after the incident and said he left threatening messages on social media for a federal prosecutor in a message that also mentioned a probation officer, a federal marshal and a federal judge.

Ex-coroner sentenced for taking funeral money

GA GRAY — A former middle Georgia coroner was sentenced to five years in prison after he pleaded guilty to defrauding people of money paid to him in advance to cover funeral and burial expenses.

Jerry Bridges, 77, formerly coroner in Jones County, was sentenced on 43 fraud-

related counts. He earlier told Jones County Superior Court Judge Brenda Trammell that he took the money and used it for other purposes.

WMAZ-TV reported Trammell also sentenced Bridges to 15 years on probation.

Bridges took more than \$200,000 from dozens of families. He was ordered to pay restitution.

4 injured when teen pours gasoline on bonfire

FL POLK CITY — Four Florida teenagers were injured when one of them poured gasoline on a bonfire, causing it to explode, officials said.

Officials said two boys and two girls were injured. Three of the teens were taken to Tampa General Hospital, while one was taken to Lakeland Regional Health hospital, Polk County Fire Rescue officials told news outlets.

Man riding lawnmower on highway arrested

KS TOPEKA — It's not unusual for officers to pull over suspected drunken drivers on the highways of Kansas, but it is fairly rare to find the suspected drunken driver on a major thoroughfare driving a riding lawnmower.

That's what Shawnee County Sheriff's deputies said they encountered when they spotted a man driving a lawnmower on the southbound shoulder of U.S. Highway 75 near Topeka, television station KSNT reported.

The 25-year-old man was stopped and arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after he failed a field sobriety test, officials said.

Suspect in unemployment fraud had \$197K in cash

CA PASADENA — A Southern California man was charged with using stolen identities to fraudulently obtain state unemployment insurance benefits and then using the money to buy luxury items like a Maserati SUV, prosecutors said.

Robert Sloan Mateer, 30, faces multiple felony counts including aggravated identity theft, possession of methamphetamine and weapons charges, ABC 7 reported.

Pasadena police officers arrested Mateer following a traffic stop when they found 17 unemployment benefits debit cards, several other credit and debit cards, more than \$197,000 in cash, along with meth and guns, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to the affidavit, Mateer admit-

ted to obtaining the unemployment benefits debit cards by using "thousands" of identity profiles in his possession.

Law makes it illegal to hold phone while driving

VA RICHMOND — It will soon be illegal in Virginia to hold a phone while driving.

WAVY-TV reported that the new state law takes effect in January.

Authorities said that making the practice illegal and enforceable is an important step toward reducing deaths on the road.

The General Assembly passed the new legislation earlier this year. Drivers can still talk on the phone. But they cannot hold the device. Drivers who are caught face a fine of

Scientists: Bridge project threatens unique island

MD CABIN JOHN — Scientists said a bridge expansion project across the Potomac River will threaten a patch of land in Maryland that has been dubbed "the most thoroughly studied island in North America."

The Washington Post reported that the 12 acres of rock and woods called Plummers Island have been home to the Washington Biologists' Field Club for more than a century.

The group has spent decades studying the land, which offers a unique window into how nature responds to human development and climate change.

The group says the island's research value is in danger because of a plan for a wider American Legion Bridge to relieve traffic congestion on the Capital Beltway.

Aquarium welcomes 4 young dolphins

MS GULFPORT — The Mississippi Aquarium has some new residents.

WLOX reported that four young dolphins — Archer, Fin, Nigel and Axel — are getting comfortable in their new surroundings.

The dolphins were born at Sea World in Orlando and have been raised together, the station reports.

"These four dolphins were all raised together in the same social groupings. They've formed bonds with each other throughout their entire lives," Andy Horn, the aquarium's Curator of Marine Mammals, told the station.

The dolphins will spend the next few weeks interacting with their trainers and then will be moved into the main area of the aquarium around the end of the year.

From The Associated Press

Army shuts out Navy at West Point

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Singing the alma mater second never felt quite like this for Army.

These Black Knights accomplished something never before done in the history of their rivalry with Navy: Beating the Midshipmen at West Point.

Tyhier Tyler scored on a 4-yard run early in the fourth quarter, the Army defense stoned Navy with a goal-line stand in the third, and the Black Knights beat their archrival 15-0 on Saturday at fog-shrouded Michie Stadium.

It was the first meeting between the teams at West Point since a 13-0 Navy shutout in 1943. The storied game is typically played at a neutral site like Philadelphia or Baltimore but the pandemic changed those plans.

The game was moved to Michie Stadium from Philadelphia because COVID-19 regulations in Pennsylvania would not have allowed the Corps of Cadets and Brigade of Midshipmen to attend.

"It's a pretty big event to shut somebody out in this game. This has such a great history to it," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "It was a slugfest, just back and forth. The fog rolled in. It almost seemed appropriate for the battle that was taking place out there.

It's a lot of fun to be able to celebrate like this."

The last two time the game was played at West Point was during World War II and the first was 1890. Army didn't score a point in any of those games,

The Black Knights (8-2) posted their first shutout in the series since a 27-0 victory in 1969 and have won four of five against Navy (3-7). Navy still leads the series 61-53-7.

Navy sang second, as is tradition for the winner of the game, last year in Philadelphia after a 31-7 triumph.

"We were going to defend our house," Army linebacker Amadeo West said. "Very fortunate. Tonight we're going to enjoy this win cause it's a very special win."

No fans were allowed, so there wasn't much of a home field advantage for the Black Knights. When the game began the Mids and Cadets were seated in groups on different sides and behind both goalposts, and the stadium literally shook after President Donald Trump conducted the coin toss and the Mids won.

Army had three weeks off to prepare after its game Nov. 7 against Air Force was switched to next Saturday because of COVID-19 concerns in and around the Air Force Academy. Navy was coming in off four straight losses.

Xavier Arline started for Navy, just the fifth freshman to start at quarterback for the Mids against Army. Tyler, who had played in four games prior to Saturday, made his second straight start.

The game turned in the third quarter with Army clinging to a 3-0 lead and on its heels after Arline ripped off a 52-yard run. He was poised to cross the goalline when Cedric Cunningham ran him down and pushed him out of bounds at the 2.

When two runs netted nothing, Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo called timeout. The Army defense then rose to the occasion again, with senior linebacker Jon Rhattigan stopping Arline inches of the goal and West stopping Nelson Smith on fourth down.

"It's huge," Niumatalolo said. "You don't get that, it's a defensive struggle. You've got to convert there. You have to convert."

Army went up 3-0 on Quinn Maretzki's 37-yard field goal early in the second quarter, set up by Tyler's 28-yard completion to Tyrell Robinson, just the second completion of his career.

Tyler scored after a Navy turnover, the only one of the game, and Daryan McDonald tacked on a safety late in the fourth when he tackled Navy wide receiver Mark Walker in the end zone on a reverse.

Maretzki added a 40-yard field goal.

Vandy's Fuller is 1st woman to score in Power 5 game

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Sarah Fuller became the first woman to score in a Power Five conference football game, cleanly kicking a pair of extra points for Vanderbilt in a 42-17 loss to Tennessee on Saturday.

The goalkeeper for Vanderbilt's Southeastern Conference women's soccer champs made both of her kicks, to the cheers of her teammates and family.

"This whole time has been if I can do it, if I'm good enough to do it," Fuller said after the game. "It wasn't if I was a girl or not. So that's something I've really appreciated. At the end of the day, they treated me like an athlete and that's the best I could ask for."

Fuller got her historic chance with 1:50 left in the first quarter.

Listed second out of three available kickers on the depth chart, Fuller came out to try the extra point. The 6-foot-2 senior put the ball through the uprights to tie the game at 7

and celebrated by pulling her fist in before slapping high-fives with teammates.

Fuller off the field with a big smile with her family in the stands all with their arms up in the air.

Center judge Chris Garner made sure to give Fuller the ball, the official bringing it to her at the sideline.

Vanderbilt gave Fuller another chance with 7:22 left in the game. Ken Seals hit Ben Bresnahan with a 16-yard TD pass, and Fuller went back out. She kicked the extra point through as the Commodores closed to 35-17.

Fuller made history as the first female to play in a Power Five conference game on Nov. 28 with a squib kickoff to open the second half at Missouri. She has remained on the roster even as Vanderbilt's other kickers came out of quarantine and rejoined the team.

Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt, who had

a daughter earlier this year, said it was awesome.

"She's obviously a winner," Pruitt said about Fuller. "And she walked up there and kicked it right through. So I just think it says a whole lot about her and really, kind of her fortitude to be brave enough to go do this."

The Commodores fell to 0-9 this season.

No woman before Fuller had appeared in an SEC game or for any Power Five team. Liz Heaston became the first woman to score in college football with two extra points for Willamette of NAIA on Oct. 18, 1997.

Katie Hnida was the first woman to score at the Football Bowl Subdivision level with two extra points for New Mexico on Aug. 30, 2003. April Goss was the second, with an extra point for Kent State in 2015. Tonya Butler was the first woman to kick a field goal in an NCAA game for Division II West Alabama on Sept. 13, 2003.

No shoe-in: LSU shocks No. 6 Florida

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — There were no shortage of eye-popping moments in this LSU-Florida game. Cade York's 57-yard field goal. Marco Wilson's inexplicable shoe toss. The dense fog that rolled in late and covered the Swamp. Kyle Trask's three turnovers in the second quarter, including maybe the wackiest interception ever.

For the Tigers, those will be fond memories.

For the Gators, they will be nightmares.

Max Johnson threw three touchdown passes in his first college start, York delivered the kick of his life with 23 seconds remaining and reigning national champion LSU stunned No. 6 Florida 37-34 on a cool and foggy Saturday night in the Swamp.

York drilled his kick through the eerie elements and the uprights after an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the Gators' Wilson, who threw tight end Kole Taylor's size 14 shoe following a third-down stop. The Tigers would have punted. Instead, they got a first down and moved into York's long-distance range.

"I don't think I've ever been in a game where an opponent threw a shoe, to be honest with you," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said.

Not many have. The kick was a rarity,

too, especially since York could barely see the goal posts.

"It was a little blurry," he said. "It went down the middle, right?"

Florida (8-2) had a final shot, and Trask got the Gators in position to tie. But Evan McPherson was wide left from 51 yards on the final play. The Tigers (4-5) celebrated wildly all over the field.

"We had an easier one than they did. We just missed it," Florida coach Dan Mullen said.

Johnson had a lot to do with the outcome. The son of former Super Bowl champion Brad Johnson repeatedly torched the Gators' beleaguered defense. He threw for 239 yards, nearly half of them (108) to Kayshon Boutte, and ran for 52 more.

"Boy, his confidence was incredible," Orgeron said. "I think Max is going to be a championship quarterback."

Johnson got a hug and a kiss on top of his head from his father, who walked down to the first row and leaned over the wall to reach his son. Teammates were still dancing and screaming all around.

Florida didn't help itself with three turnovers in the first half that led to 10 points and a 24-17 deficit.

Trask accounted for four touchdowns and all three turnovers, first putting his teammates in a hole and then helping

them climb out of it. But he was unable to rally the Gators when it mattered.

He ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more, including his record-setting 40th of the season. He passed 1996 Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel for the most in a single season in school history.

Wuerffel called Trask after the game and reminded him that the Gators lost their regular-season finale in 1996 before rebounding to win it all.

"It's just one foot in front of the other, you know, and that's what we plan on doing next week," Trask said.

For most of the game, though, Trask looked nothing like the Heisman Trophy front-runner. The Gators looked even less like a team capable of upsetting the Crimson Tide next week in Atlanta in the Southeastern Conference title game with a College Football Playoff spot at stake.

Barely able to field a team because of injuries, opt-outs and COVID-19 testing and contract tracing, the Tigers forced Trask into a fumble and two interceptions in a first half that morphed what was supposed to be a tune-up into a meltdown. The Gators had offensive lulls, defensive lapses and little to no edge on Senior Night. They were 23-point favorites at kickoff. But LSU made more plays from start to finish.

Joshua knocks out Pulev, retains heavyweight belts

Associated Press

LONDON — By rediscovering the thrill of a brutal knockout, Anthony Joshua cleared the way to a shot at being the undisputed heavyweight champion.

With a big right hand that sent Kubrat Pulev, a durable but one-dimensional Bulgarian, to the canvas for a third and final time, Joshua secured a dominant ninth-round win in his U.K. homecoming on Saturday to retain the WBA, WBO and IBF belts.

It wasn't long before the inevitable question was thrown at him: is WBC champion Tyson Fury next in what would be an all-British blockbuster to unify

the four titles in boxing's marquee division?

"Whoever has got the belt, I'd love to compete with them," Joshua said. "If that is Tyson Fury, let it be Tyson Fury."

If that felt a slightly noncommittal response — and it was taken that way by Fury in a video message he released moments later — Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, left no room for debate.

"We know what we have to do starting from tomorrow: to make the Tyson Fury fight straightaway," Hearn said.

"It's the only fight to be made in boxing. It's the biggest fight in boxing."

Figueiredo, Moreno fight to a draw in UFC 256

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Deiveson Figueiredo stepped back after the final bell and spread his arms wide. The UFC flyweight champion loosed a full-throated scream as he wrapped a hug around Brandon Moreno, who had just stretched him to the limit of his ability.

When the scorecards couldn't decide a winner, Figueiredo stayed the champ — and the UFC had every reason to get these two together again soon.

Figueiredo and Moreno fought to a thrilling majority draw at UFC 256 on Saturday, with Figueiredo setting a UFC record in his second defense of

his flyweight title in three weeks. Lightweight contender Charles Oliveira also earned his eighth consecutive victory by unanimous decision after dominating former champion Tony Ferguson.

Just 21 days after Figueiredo (20-1-1) stopped Alex Perez for his first title defense at UFC 255, the Brazilian returned to the cage and survived a perilous stalemate with Moreno (18-5-2), who also fought at UFC 255.

After making a trip to the hospital Friday night because of an undisclosed ailment, Figueiredo gathered the strength to complete the quickest two title defenses in UFC history.

Browns grab spotlight during playoff push

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Browns have quickly stepped out of the shadows and into the spotlight.

This time, they'll try not to let it melt them.

Fresh off an impressive road win at Tennessee last week, Cleveland's Dec. 20 matchup against the New York Giants was moved Wednesday by the NFL from a 1 p.m. kickoff and into the coveted Sunday night slot before a national TV audience.

The switch — Dallas and San Francisco was the original matchup — gives the Browns

(9-3), who are closing in on their first playoff berth since 2002, more exposure as they'll make two prime-time appearances next week: Monday night against Baltimore and Sunday versus the resurgent Giants.

The scheduling flex by the league is a small but not insignificant sign of respect toward the Browns, who weren't expected to do much in 2020 but have become one of this season's best stories under first-year coach Kevin Stefanski.

Bumping America's team is a start.

"We are all excited," run-

ning back Nick Chubb said of the back-to-back showcase games next week.

"I can't lie and say that I enjoy night games more than the morning games so I can get it over and get back home. But I am excited for what we have going here. I am excited for the fans to get to watch prime time. I am excited for all of it."

But although his team is getting more attention, Stefanski isn't making too much of the upcoming showcase games.

"My mind does not really go there," the typically stoic Stefanski said after a short practice. "They tell me where we

are playing, when we are playing and who we are playing."

The Browns aren't seeking respect, but they're starting to get more — and, based on a few things, they probably deserve it.

Cleveland has bona fide stars in Chubb, defensive end Myles Garrett and receiver Jarvis Landry.

And while quarterback Baker Mayfield isn't going to make anyone's Pro Bowl list, he's playing much better and is already a household name many places due to his college pedigree, Heisman Trophy and commercial endorsements.

Top 25 basketball roundup

No. 20 FSU wins after Florida's Johnson collapses

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Highly touted freshman Scottie Barnes scored 17 points and No. 20 Florida State extended its dominance against rival Florida with an 83-71 victory Saturday that came after the Gators' best player collapsed on the court and was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Keyontae Johnson, the Southeastern Conference's preseason player of the year, was taken off the floor on a stretcher in the opening minutes and transported to Tallahassee Memorial for evaluation. Florida officials said he was in critical but stable condition and was held in the hospital overnight.

The junior from Norfolk, Va., had just dunked in transition before he crumpled without warning as the team broke its huddle. Several Gators were in tears and a couple buried their faces in towels as coach Mike White gathered his team for a prayer.

The game continued after a brief break, but the Gators weren't the same after witnessing a teammate deal with a medical emergency.

Florida (3-1) was ahead 11-3 after Johnson's dunk. The Seminoles (3-0) scored the next seven points and pulled away from there.

They outscored the Gators 42-24 in the first half after Johnson was stricken.

FSU led by as many as 18 in the second half. The Seminoles ended up extending

their winning streak against Florida to seven games, tying the longest by either team in the series.

Missouri 81, No. 6 Illinois 78: The host Tigers held off a late charge from the Illini and overcame 36 points from Fighting Illini star Ayo Dosunmu for a victory.

Dru Smith had 17 points, Javon Pickett had 14 points and five rebounds and Missouri held on in the annual "Braggin' Rights" rivalry game.

The Tigers (5-0) led 49-41 at halftime and held on for their third straight win in the series.

Illinois (4-2) trailed by 13 with nine minutes left but rallied to tie it before Missouri closed out the upset.

Dosunmu set a career high in scoring on 13-of-20 shooting, and Kofi Cockburn had 19 points with six rebounds for the Illini. Andre Curbelo added in 14 points off the bench.

No. 12 Tennessee 65, Cincinnati 56: John Fulkerson had 15 points and 12 rebounds, helping the host Vols pull away late in the second half against the Bearcats.

A three-pointer by David DeJulius put Cincinnati ahead 53-51 with 6:14 left. The 6-foot-9 Fulkerson came back with four foul shots, giving Tennessee (2-0) the lead for good.

Jaden Springer added 11 for the Vols, making five foul shots. They went 25-for-30 from the line while the Bearcats went 4-

for-7.

Jeremiah Davenport came off the bench to lead Cincinnati (2-2) with 14 points. DeJulius scored 11 and Tari Eason had 10.

No. 16 North Carolina 73, North Carolina Central 67: Armando Bacot had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and the host Tar Heels stopped a two-game slide.

Caleb Love and Day'Ron Sharpe scored 12 points apiece for North Carolina (4-2), and Andrew Platek finished with 11.

The Eagles (1-3) scored the final nine points of the game. C.J. Keyser had 19 points for N.C. Central, and Justin Whatley finished with 13.

No. 17 Texas Tech 77, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 57: Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 15 points in his return from an ankle injury and coach Chris Beard earned his 100th victory with the Red Raiders in Frisco, Texas.

Freshman Micah Peavy and graduate transfer Marcus Santos-Silva scored 12 points apiece for the Texas Tech (6-1), which never trailed after finding itself behind with eight minutes to go before avoiding a major upset in its previous game against Abilene Christian.

The game at the home of the Dallas Mavericks' G League team was the second neutral-site meeting in the Dallas area in two weeks for the Red Raiders. They lost to No. 7 Houston 64-53 in a Top 25 matchup in Fort Worth.