

Electoral College confirms Biden win

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Electoral College decisively confirmed Joe Biden on Monday as the nation's next president, ratifying his November victory in an authoritative state-by-state repudiation of President Donald Trump's refusal to concede he had lost.

The presidential electors gave Biden a solid majority of 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232, the same margin that Trump bragged was a landslide when he won the White House four years ago.

Heightened security was in place in some states as electors met to cast paper ballots, with masks, social distancing and other pandemic precautions the order of the day. The results will be sent to Washington and tallied in a Jan. 6 joint session of Congress over which Vice President Mike Pence will preside.

For all Trump's unsupported claims of fraud, there was little suspense and no change as every one of the electoral votes allocated to Biden and the president in last month's popular vote went officially to each man. On Election Day, the Democrat topped the incumbent Republican by more than 7 million in the popular vote nationwide.

California's 55 electoral votes put Biden over the top. Vermont, with 3 votes, was the

first state to report. Hawaii, with 4 votes, was the last.

"Once again in America, the rule of law, our Constitution, and the will of the people have prevailed. Our democracy — pushed, tested, threatened — proved to be resilient, true, and strong," Biden said in an evening speech in which he stressed the size of his win and the record 81 million people who voted for him.

He renewed his campaign promise to be a president for all Americans, whether they voted for him or not, and said the country has hard work ahead on the virus and economy.

But there was no concession from the White House, where Trump has continued to make unsupported allegations of fraud.

Trump remained in the Oval Office long after the sun set in Washington, calling allies and fellow Republicans while keeping track of the running Electoral College tally, according to White House and campaign aides. The president frequently ducked into the private dining room off the Oval Office to watch on TV, complaining that the cable networks were treating it like a mini-Election Night while not giving his challenges any airtime.

Trump's efforts to undermine the election results also led to concerns about safe-

ty for the electors, virtually unheard of in previous years.

In Michigan, lawmakers from both parties reported receiving threats, and legislative offices were closed over threats of violence. Biden won the state by 154,000 votes, or 2.8 percentage points, over Trump.

Georgia state police were out in force at the state Capitol in Atlanta before Democratic electors pledged to Biden met. There were no protesters seen.

Following weeks of Republican legal challenges that were easily dismissed by judges, Trump and Republican allies tried to persuade the Supreme Court to set aside 62 electoral votes for Biden in four states, which might have thrown the outcome into doubt.

The justices rejected the effort on Friday.

The Electoral College was the product of compromise during the drafting of the Constitution between those who favored electing the president by popular vote and those who opposed giving the people the power to directly choose their leader.

The bargain struck by the nation's founders has produced five elections in which the president did not win the popular vote. Trump was the most recent example in 2016.

Marines boot camp to train coed recruits for first time

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — For the first time in its 100-year history, women will attend recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego early next year, the Marine Corps said in a news release.

The recruit company, designated "Lima" Company, will serve as a "proof of concept" to demonstrate to the Marine Corps what will be required for future sustained integrated recruit training in San Diego, according to the Marines. The recruits will report to the depot Feb. 12.

"This is the first time we are able to give Marines who graduate from MCRD San Diego the same integrated experience that many of their peers at Parris Island have

received already," Brig. Gen. Ryan P. Heritage, the commanding general of the depot, said in a statement. "(This) will get us one step closer to understanding the facilities and personnel needed to make this a sustained reality."

News of the Marine Corps' plans was first reported Monday by military news site Military.com.

The Marines also announced that on Wednesday, a new class of 57 drill instructors will graduate the depot's first integrated Drill Instructor Course. Three women are among the new drill instructors graduating, and they will be among the instructors involved in training the new integrated company in February, said

Marine Capt. Martin Harris, a depot spokesman.

About 60 women will comprise one of the six platoons in the company. The women have already been told they're San Diego-bound, Harris said.

Congress mandated last year that the Marines integrate its two boot camps, San Diego and Parris Island, South Carolina, within a decade. Women have been training separately on the East Coast while San Diego has been all-male since it began training recruits in 1923. The Marines graduated their first coed recruit company at Parris Island in 2019. Since then, eight more integrated companies have graduated, the Marines said.

Turkey sanctioned over missile purchase

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Monday imposed sanctions on its NATO ally Turkey over its purchase of a Russian air defense system, in a striking move against a longtime partner that sets the stage for further confrontation between the two nations as President-elect Joe Biden prepares to take office.

The extraordinary step against a treaty ally comes at a delicate time in relations between Washington and Ankara, which have been at odds for years over Turkey's acquisition from Russia of the S-400 missile defense system, along with Turkish actions in Syria, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and in the eastern

Mediterranean.

The sanctions, which were required under a 2017 U.S. law aimed at pushing back on Russia if the administration deemed there was significant cause, add another element of uncertainty to the relationship as President Donald Trump winds down his term. The move is the first time that law, known as CAATSA, has been used to penalize a U.S. ally.

"The United States made clear to Turkey at the highest levels and on numerous occasions that its purchase of the S-400 system would endanger the security of U.S. military technology and personnel and provide substantial funds to Russia's defense sector, as well as Russian access to the Turkish armed forces and defense in-

dustry," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

"Turkey nevertheless decided to move ahead with the procurement and testing of the S-400, despite the availability of alternative, NATO-interoperable systems to meet its defense requirements," he said in a statement.

"I urge Turkey to resolve the S-400 problem immediately in coordination with the United States," he said. "Turkey is a valued ally and an important regional security partner for the United States, and we seek to continue our decadeslong history of productive defense-sector cooperation by removing the obstacle of Turkey's S-400 possession as soon as possible."

Turkey's foreign ministry

said in a statement it "condemns and rejects" the U.S. sanctions, saying Washington's one-sided sanctions were beyond understanding.

"Turkey will take the necessary steps against this decision, which will inevitably affect our relations in a negative way, and reciprocate in a way and time it sees fit," the statement said.

The sanctions target Turkey's Presidency of Defense Industries, the country's military procurement agency, its chief Ismail Demir and three other senior officials. The penalties block any assets the four officials may have in U.S. jurisdictions and bar their entry into the U.S. They also include a ban on most export licenses, loans and credits to the agency.

Trump must decide before Christmas whether to sign or veto \$731B defense bill

CQ Roll Call

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, who has threatened to veto the fiscal 2021 defense authorization bill, has until Dec. 23 to either do so or sign it into law, congressional aides said Monday.

The Senate cleared the \$731.6 billion measure on Dec. 11, and it was quickly enrolled and delivered to the White House the next day, the aides said.

According to the Constitution, a president has 10 days, excluding Sundays, to sign or veto a bill, setting up the Dec. 23 deadline for Trump's decision. If Congress were to adjourn during the 10 days, the bill could get scuttled in a so-called pocket veto, but Congress is expected to take procedural steps to avoid that scena-

rio. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has said he would not allow a pocket veto to happen.

Trump has threatened to veto the measure, known as the NDAA, because it would not repeal legal protections for social media companies and because it would require the Pentagon to rename military bases named after Confederate soldiers.

If Trump takes most or all of the 10 days he is allowed and vetoes the bill any time after this week, lawmakers will probably have already left town. Hoyer, D-Md., has indicated he would bring lawmakers back to town to vote to override an NDAA veto before the Jan. 3 scheduled start of the new Congress. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has yet to commit to the same plan.

Monitoring of N. Korea trade decreased during pandemic

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Partner militaries monitoring United Nations sanctions on North Korea had to trim the number of missions this year by about two-thirds, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, according to U.N. command staff in Japan.

Sanctions-monitoring missions, which include ships and aircraft operating out of U.S. military bases in Japan, declined from 50-60 a year in recent years to about 20 in 2020, the head of U.N. Command — Rear, Royal Australian Air Force Col. Adam Williams said in a Nov. 24 interview.

The U.N. Security Council has passed several resolutions sanctioning North Korea since the country conducted its first nuclear test in 2006.

They apply to trade in prod-

ucts such as military supplies, precious metals, luxury goods, coal and oil, as well as financial transactions.

The council has authorized member states to seize, inspect, freeze and impound any vessel in their territorial waters illicitly providing oil to North Korea through ship-to-ship transfers, or smuggling coal and other prohibited commodities from the country.

A Canadian frigate, the HMCS Winnipeg, in November wrapped up a two-month sanctions-monitoring mission out of Japan. A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft completed another sanctions-monitoring mission out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, earlier this month, Williams said.

North Korea netted hundreds of millions of dollars by evading sanctions last year, the Reuters news agency reported, citing a U.N. Security Council report.

Base cites unsafe behavior in virus cases

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The home of the U.S. 7th Fleet attributed a rash of new coronavirus cases to unauthorized behavior in risky places, while in South Korea, the U.S. military hinted at another round of strict public health measures.

Yokosuka Naval Base, 35 miles south of Tokyo, said 11 new coronavirus cases had appeared since Friday, many of them linked to forbidden activities, such as trips to bars and restaurant dining in Yokohama and Tokyo, according to a Facebook post Tuesday.

Meanwhile, U.S. Forces Korea is “strongly considering raising” its health protection level in light of record-breaking numbers of new coronavirus cases on the peninsula. The nation’s Central Disease Control Headquarters reported 880 newly infected patients Monday.

In a Facebook post Tuesday, USFK said it may raise its coronavirus risk to substantial, or Health Protection Condition-Charlie,

which brings tighter restrictions on travel and off-duty activities and may mean closing Defense Department schools again.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun, head of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters, repeated the dire message he’s communicated since the weekend.

The cold is here in earnest, he said Tuesday at a meeting in Seoul, “and on top of that, COVID-19 is raging now, so we are having a harsher winter than ever before.” COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Although the virus appears to be “holding its breath for a while” after infecting 1,030 people on Sunday, a pandemic record, the country faces a “very precarious situation,” he said.

The government is ready to raise its public health level to the third tier and ask its citizens to adhere to measures such as working from home and closing businesses.

In Japan, Yokosuka Naval Base said six

people tested positive after becoming ill with COVID-19 symptoms, according to its Facebook post. Another four were discovered during contact tracing, and one tested positive after returning from travel outside Japan.

Yokohama, 16 miles north of the naval base, is considered a high-risk area, although sailors are permitted to visit the city. Tokyo is off-limits for nearly all U.S. service personnel, except those who live there or have official business.

Bars, fitness centers and places to meet for drinks and appetizers, called izakayas, are off-limits in Yokohama, along with dining inside restaurants and similar activities. Sailors are also banned from museums, zoos and the seasonal light displays popular in the metro area.

Violations of the coronavirus restrictions involve “people being people,” a base spokesman, Randall Baucom, said Tuesday by phone to Stars and Stripes, but not necessarily in large groups.

US vaccines ramp up as 2nd shot nears

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds more U.S. hospitals geared up to vaccinate their workers Tuesday as federal regulators issued a positive review of a second COVID-19 vaccine needed to boost the nation’s largest vaccination campaign.

The Food and Drug Administration said its preliminary analysis confirmed the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health, bringing it to the cusp of U.S. authorization.

A panel of outside experts will offer their recommendation Thursday, with a final FDA decision expected soon thereafter.

The positive news comes as hospitals ramped up vaccinations with the shot developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, which the FDA cleared last week.

Packed in dry ice to stay at ultra-frozen temperatures, shipments of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine will arrive at 400 additional hospitals and other distribution sites, one day after the nation’s death toll surpassed a staggering 300,000. The first 3 million shots are being strictly rationed to front-line health workers and elder-care patients, with hundreds of millions more shots needed over the coming months to protect most Americans.

A second vaccine can’t come soon enough as the country’s daily death count continues to

top 2,400 amid over 210,000 new daily cases, based on weekly averages of data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The toll is only expected to grow in coming weeks, fueled by holiday travel, family gatherings and lax adherence to basic public health measures.

The first vaccine deliveries have provided a measure of encouragement to exhausted doctors, nurses and hospital staffers around the country.

Johnnie Peoples, a 43-year-old survival flight nurse, was excited and a little nervous Monday afternoon as he unzipped his flight suit and stuck out his left arm to become the first person to receive the vaccine at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

Since March, he’s transported critically ill COVID-19 patients by jet from smaller hospitals around the state to the university medical center. It’s up-close-and-personal work that requires him to adjust ventilator settings and administer infusions to keep blood pressure from plummeting.

In Florida, government officials expect to have 100,000 doses of the vaccine by Tuesday at five hospitals across the state.

“This is 20,000 doses of hope,” said John Couris, president and chief executive officer, Tampa General Hospital, after the delivery of 3,900 vaccine vials on Monday. Each vial has five doses.

Dems squeezed as relief talks endure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As top Washington negotiators reach for a long-delayed agreement on COVID-19 relief, rank-and-file Democrats appear increasingly resigned to having to drop, for now, a scaled-back demand for fiscal relief for state and local governments whose budgets have been thrown out of balance by the pandemic.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., spoke with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin by phone Monday evening and continues to press for help for struggling states and localities. But top Democratic allies of President-elect Joe Biden came out in support of a \$748 billion plan offered by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and hinted they won’t insist on a pitched battle for state and local aid now.

Pelosi has insisted for months that state and local aid would be in any final bill, but as time is running out, Democrats appear unwilling to hold the rest of the package hostage over the demand. Several Democrats appeared at a bipartisan news conference on Monday to endorse the \$748 billion package.

“We’re not going home until this is done,” said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on CNN Tuesday morning. “We’ve got to get people a lifeline. It will pass — the \$748 (billion).”

Attorney general resigns effective Dec. 23

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr, one of President Donald Trump's staunchest allies, is departing amid lingering tension over the president's baseless claims of election fraud and the investigation into President-elect Joe Biden's son.

Barr went Monday to the White House, where Trump said the attorney general submitted his letter of resignation. "As per letter, Bill will be leaving just before Christmas to spend the holidays with his family," Trump tweeted.

Trump has publicly expressed his anger about Barr's statement to The Associated Press earlier this month that the Justice Department had found no widespread fraud that would change the outcome of the election. Trump has also been angry that the Justice Department did not publicly announce it was investigating Hunter Biden ahead of the election, despite department policy against such a pronouncement.

Barr told the AP that U.S. attorneys and FBI agents have been working to follow up

specific complaints and information they've received, but "to date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election."

Barr's resignation leaves Trump without a critical ally as he winds down his final weeks in office, and it throws into question open Justice Department investigations, especially the probe into Hunter Biden's taxes.

In his resignation letter, Barr said he updated Trump on Monday on the department's "review of voter fraud allegations in the 2020 election and how these allegations will continue to be pursued." He added that his last day on the job would be Dec. 23.

Trump said Deputy Attorney General Jeff Rosen, whom he labeled "an outstanding person," will become acting attorney general. As the current second in command at the Justice Department, Rosen's appointment is not likely to change much in the final weeks before the administration departs.

Despite Trump's obvious disdain for those who publicly disagree with him, Barr

had generally remained in the president's good graces and has been one of the president's most ardent allies. Before the election, he had repeatedly raised the notion that mail-in voting could be especially vulnerable to fraud during the coronavirus pandemic as Americans feared going to polls.

But Trump has a low tolerance for criticism, especially public criticism, from his allies and often fires back in kind. The two had been at odds in the past few months and Barr was said to have been frustrated by Trump's tweeting.

Trump said on Fox News over the weekend that he was disappointed that the Hunter Biden investigation had not been disclosed. Hunter Biden himself announced it last week.

"Bill Barr should have stepped up," Trump said.

One senior administration official not authorized to speak publicly and speaking to The AP on condition of anonymity said Barr had resigned of his own accord and described the meeting as amicable.

Senate majority leader congratulates President-elect Biden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell congratulated Democrat Joe Biden as president-elect on Tuesday, saying the Electoral College "has spoken."

The Republican leader's statement, delivered in a speech on the Senate floor, ends

weeks of silence over President Donald Trump's defeat. It came a day after electors met and officially affirmed Biden's election win.

"Many of us had hoped the presidential election would yield a different result," he said.

"But our system of government has the

processes to determine who will be sworn in on Jan. 20. The Electoral College has spoken."

He also congratulated Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, saying "all Americans can take pride that our nation has a female vice president-elect for the very first time."

Space Force gets pins and badges to wear for now

BY STEVE BEYNON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Space Force service members will soon get lapel pins and service badges to wear on their Air Force dress uniforms to better distinguish the branches.

Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, the senior enlisted leader for Space Force, unveiled a lapel pin and service badge for service members of the military's newest branch to display on their Air Force uniforms.

"This is how we're going to space up the Air Force uniform while we're wearing it," Towberman said last week in a video announcing the new pin. "It doesn't mean

we'll carry this onto a Space Force uniform when it's designed."

He said the specific policy on the appropriate way to wear the pin and badge will be out later this month. In the announcement, Towberman was wearing the service badge in the middle of his chest pocket and the pin on the middle of the collar.

Troops in Space Force also wear the Operational Camouflage Pattern, or OCP, as the normal duty uniform, the same uniform worn by the Army.

The OCP uniforms are worn essentially the same way as the Army. However, tapes and badges will have "space blue" embroidery.

Troops also will wear a space blue name

tape on the back of their patrol caps, according to regulations published in August.

Almost anything acceptable on the OCP uniform, including coyote brown boots, a rigger or standard-issue brown belt, the standard-issue brown fleece jacket and green or brown socks, are approved.

Space Force also does not yet have its own uniform for physical training.

Space Force has roughly 2,000 personnel, most of whom are transfers from the Air Force, though the service has recently started enlisting new recruits. Space Force hopes to recruit 300 enlisted service members in 2021 and reach 6,500 members overall in a year. Most will come from Air Force transfers.

Trespasser climbs onto wing of plane

NV LAS VEGAS — Police have identified a man who was arrested after getting on the tarmac and climbing onto the wing of a plane that was preparing to take off from Las Vegas' airport.

Metropolitan Police officials said that Alejandro Carlson, 41, remains in the Clark County jail on suspicion of trespassing and disregard for the safety of a person or property.

Police said officers were called to McCarran International Airport after a man jumped a perimeter fence and climbed onto the wing of an Alaska Airlines flight headed to Portland, Ore.

FBI: Agent shot, wounded while serving warrant

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An FBI agent was shot and wounded while helping serve a federal search warrant in Albuquerque, an agency spokesman said.

The agent was in stable condition when transported to a hospital for treatment and the agent's injury was not considered life-threatening, FBI spokesman Frank Fisher said in a brief statement.

A suspect in the shooting was in custody, Fisher said.

Gyroscope crash in wooded area kills pilot

FL SAN MATEO — A gyrocopter crashed in a rural part of northeast Florida, killing the pilot, authorities said.

The 62-year-old pilot was the only person on the aircraft and died at the scene in a wooded area of Putnam County, according to a news release from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Gyroscopes resemble small

helicopters but they get propulsion from a rear propeller, allowing them to take off like planes.

SUV crashes into nursing home, hurts woman, 93

MI GRANDVILLE — An SUV crashed through the wall of a western Michigan nursing home, injuring a 93-year-old woman inside her room, authorities said.

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office said the resident was knocked to the floor of Georgetown & Cambridge Manors when a Ford Edge crashed into her room at the Grandville nursing home.

She was taken to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries, the sheriff's office said in a news release.

Deputies believe a mechanical failure caused the SUV driven by a 23-year-old from Grand Rapids to back through the nursing home's parking lot in a circle before striking the building, the Grand Rapids Press reported.

Police: 2 ambulance crews robbed in 1 week

NY NEW YORK — New York City ambulance workers are being told to keep their guard up after two crews were robbed while responding to what turned out to be phony emergency calls.

In the latest incident, police said a man pulled a gun on two fire department emergency medical technicians and demanded they hand over their radios and medical bag.

The confrontation happened in an elevator at a public housing complex in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn, as the EMTs were responding to a 911 call that purported a person was having a seizure.

Officials: Man took trip with \$350K PPP loan

VA NORFOLK — A Virginia man who authorities said used a fraudulently obtained \$350,000 Paycheck Protection Program loan for personal expenses, including a trip to Las Vegas, has pleaded guilty to bank fraud.

Scott Suber, 39, entered the plea at a federal district court in Norfolk, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said in a news release.

Congress authorized the Paycheck Protection Program, known as PPP, in March to provide emergency financial assistance to those suffering economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Court documents said Suber's application for the loan fabricated the number of employees at his Virginia Beach-based business, Debris or Not Debris Property Preservation, and how much he had to pay in wages.

Trooper hit suspect 18 times with flashlight

LA MONROE — Arrest documents filed in the case of a Louisiana state trooper facing battery and malfeasance charges said he used a flashlight to strike a suspect 18 times in 24 seconds.

State police announced the arrest of Monroe-based trooper Jacob Brown. A review of arrest records by The News-Star in Monroe shows that Brown is accused of beating the suspect with a flashlight equipped with a special tip to break car safety glass.

The suspect, Aaron Bowman, is suing Louisiana State Police and multiple Ouachita Parish agencies in connection with the beating.

"Brown explained he was hitting Bowman with his flashlight for 'pain compliance' to force Bowman to release his hands so that he could be handcuffed," the warrant reads.

Historic Army camp in line for restoration

WY JACKSON — Yellowstone National Park staff plan to restore historic buildings in Fort Yellowstone, a U.S. Army camp built in the late 1800s and early 1900s when the army administered the park.

The Jackson Hole News-&Guide reported that park staff will draw on federal funds in the recently passed Great American Outdoors Act to rehabilitate structures at Fort Yellowstone in 2021. The park spent nearly \$1 million this year to stabilize the buildings, which currently serve as park headquarters and employee housing.

Girl honored for aiding after grandmother's fall

MS GUNTOWN — Emergency responders in Mississippi are praising a 12-year-old girl because she calmly helped after her grandmother fell at home.

The girl, Ada Passmore, called 911 and followed the dispatcher's instructions after Joyce Passmore recently fell down some steps in Guntown, WTVA-TV reported.

"She stayed very calm," said Tanya Mayo of Lee County 911. "She did an excellent job taking care of her grandmother until her breathing got better, until grandmother woke up."

— From The Associated Press

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Ravens win shootout with Browns

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Lamar Jackson's only thought was to rescue his teammates.

Like any other superhero.

Jackson emerged from the locker room, saved the game and maybe Baltimore's season with a 47-42 win over the Cleveland Browns in a wild, back-and-forth Monday night game in which the teams combined to tie a 98-year-old NFL record.

Back on the field after being sidelined by cramps, Jackson threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Marquise Brown and then set up Justin Tucker's 55-yard field goal with two seconds left as the Ravens (8-5) stayed in the playoff picture.

A game dripping with playoff intensity delivered with endless drama and numerous twists, none bigger than Jackson running back onto the field for a fourth-down play after his backup, Trace McSorley, had suffered a knee injury.

Jackson, who missed a recent game with COVID-19, said he received fluids in the locker room and was getting stretched when he saw McSorley get hurt.

"I'm still stretching and I'm

like, 'We gotta go out there,'" he said. "It was fourth down, my guys were making great catches and we came out with the victory. As soon as I saw him go down, I came out of the locker room."

Jackson first hit Brown for the TD and then, after getting the ball back with 1:04 left, got Baltimore in position for Tucker, who made 70 straight field goals inside 40 yards before missing last week. He made this one look pretty routine, providing an uplifting moment for the Ravens after they spent the past two weeks dealing with a virus outbreak and numerous scheduling changes.

"It's definitely good that we made that kick, given everything this team is going through right now," Tucker said. "It keeps us in the playoff picture. We definitely needed to have this one. What the world saw on Monday Night Football was a Ravens team playing with guts."

It was a gut punch for the Browns (9-4), who had rallied from a 14-point deficit to take the lead while Jackson was out.

Cleveland had one last chance after Tucker's kick, but

a series of laterals on the final play ended with a safety that affected gamblers all over the country. Baltimore was favored by three on the opening line.

"There can either be good or bad to come from this," said Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield, whose 22-yard TD pass to Kareem Hunt with 1:04 left tied it. "You can start pointing fingers, but that's not this team. We know that we need to fight and make the plays to win when we need to."

The NFL's top two rushing teams combined for nine rushing touchdowns, tying a league record set in 1922 by Rock Island and Evansville and then Racine and Louisville.

Jackson rushed for two touchdowns and 124 yards. He completed just 11 passes, but five of them came after he returned from the cramps.

With the Ravens down 42-35, Jackson came running back onto the field after McSorley suffered what looked like a serious leg injury when he slipped on a slick FirstEnergy Stadium field that was tough for players to cut on all night.

With no margin for error on fourth-and-5, Jackson calmly

rolled to his right — and after getting the Browns to think he was going to run — he found a wide-open Brown in the middle of the field.

Even after Jackson's throw, Mayfield wasn't going to be denied. He drove Cleveland 75 yards, hitting Hunt for the score.

The Browns were beaten 38-6 by Baltimore in Week 1, but Cleveland looked like a different team — like a playoff team.

"That's a really good football team with a lot of heart," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "It's a game that's going to go down in history. Our guys had faith and trust and belief and sometimes that's what it takes."

Corner concerns

Injured Browns cornerback Greedy Williams revealed on Twitter that he's been dealing with axillary nerve damage in his shoulder since getting hurt in training camp. He hasn't played this season.

Cleveland was counting on Williams to handle the starting cornerback spot opposite Denzel Ward, who missed his third straight game with a calf injury.

NFL won't cut in line for coronavirus vaccine

Associated Press

The NFL won't be cutting in line to get the coronavirus vaccine.

"No one should be thinking about the vaccine going anywhere other than our first responders and the most vulnerable people right now," said DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association.

"We're in complete harmony with the union in that we feel that it's vital that frontline healthcare workers and another essential service workers are at the front of the line," said Dr.

Allen Sills, the NFL's chief medical officer.

"The rollout of the vaccine is going to be driven by public health concerns and what medical and government officials determine to be the most efficacious for risk reduction across society as a whole. We're prepared to support that effort," Sills said. While the U.S. hopes for enough of the two approved vaccines to vaccinate 20 million people by the end of the month, and 30 million more in January, there won't be enough for the average person to get a shot until spring.

The NFL will continue spending millions of dollars on daily COVID-19 tests, combined with social distancing and contact tracing to mitigate infections so it can get all 256 regular-season games and 13 playoff contests in the books culminating in Super Bowl 55 on Feb. 7 in Tampa, Fla.

On a recent media conference call, Smith and NFLPA president JC Tretter emphasized that football doesn't deserve any favors or special treatment when it comes to COVID-19 inoculations.

"Football is not an essential

business," Smith said. "While JC and I have a fiduciary duty to our players, I don't think either of us for a nanosecond forget that we're fortunate enough to be playing a game while millions of people are out there trying to keep us safe, and that's where the focus should be."

Added Tretter, an offensive lineman for the Cleveland Browns, "We as players understand. We don't expect to jump the line. We know as a community there are people we need to take care of first: the elderly, the most vulnerable and our first responders."

Huskies pull out of Pac-12 title game

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington has pulled out of the Pac-12 football championship game due to COVID-19 issues in the Huskies program, and Oregon will now play No. 13 USC for the conference title Friday instead.

Washington (3-1) announced Monday it is withdrawing from the championship game after determining the Huskies did not have at least 53 scholarship players available and did not meet the minimum number of scholarship athletes at specific positions.

Huskies coach Jimmy Lake said the entire team is isolating as a precaution, and another round of testing for the entire team is scheduled for Tuesday. Lake said Washington did not expect to have any offensive linemen — scholarship players or walk-ons — available to play this week because of positive tests and contact tracing.

Washington's protocol requires consecutive days of no new positive tests before the team can resume football activities.

"We cannot play and we cannot practice," Lake said. "We have not practiced since last Wednesday, our offensive line is completely unavailable until the following week. There is no way we could wait at all. We cannot play football. We couldn't play football last week, and we cannot play football this week."

Washington had to cancel its game last weekend against Oregon (3-2) that would have determined the Pac-12 North champion due to COVID-19 cases in the pro-

gram. Rob Scheidegger, Washington's associate athletic director for health and wellness, said that while the Huskies have dealt with sporadic positive cases for a couple of weeks, there was a spike last Tuesday that led to last week's pause in practice.

"At that point, the reason why we were being super proactive is because we wanted to be able to play against Oregon, and obviously we wanted to be able to play moving forward," Scheidegger said. "But we want to do that the right way ... Our path back was to wait until our tests brought back negative results, and we just haven't been able to get to the point where we have all negative results on our tests."

Washington was named Pac-12 North champ by virtue of having a better winning percentage than Oregon. The Huskies had games against California and Oregon canceled due to COVID-19 issues, and their game with Washington State became a game against Utah due to the Cougars' virus problems.

Now the Ducks, the preseason Pac-12 favorites, will take a two-game losing streak into the title game, and Colorado is left without an opponent this weekend.

The Pac-12 scheduled games for its teams not involved in the championship and had planned to have Oregon and Colorado (4-1, 3-1 Pac-12), second to USC in the South, meet Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

If USC had not been able to play, Colorado would have been its replacement.

There are currently no Pac-12 teams available for CU to play. On Sunday, just a few hours after the Pac-12 released its final-week matchups, the game between Arizona and California was canceled due to virus-related issues with both schools.

Colorado could schedule another game outside the conference for Saturday, but the Buffaloes also need to remain on standby for the Pac-12 title game until later in the week.

Lake said the Huskies hope to be back in their facility by Monday and want to play in a bowl game. Lake estimated they could be able to play in a bowl game the final week of December.

"(The players) were completely crushed that we could not play last week, and they are devastated now that we cannot play this Friday," Lake said. "So we're extremely excited at the possibility of getting everybody healthy first and foremost, and then seeing which game that is and trying to go out there and bring that bowl game championship trophy back here."

Meanwhile, Stanford on Sunday became the first Pac-12 team to say that it will not play in a bowl if invited. The Atlantic Coast Conference has already had three schools — Boston College, Pittsburgh and Virginia — announce they will opt out of bowl season. In the Southeastern Conference, No. 10 Georgia's final homecoming of the season against Vanderbilt was canceled because the Commodores fell below roster minimums due to COVID-19 protocols.

Indiana and Purdue cancel rivalry game again

Associated Press

Indiana and Purdue have squared off on the football field every year since 1920.

Now, their rivalry game for the Old Oaken Bucket has been canceled for the second time in two weeks — and the third time this season. Athletic directors Scott Dolson and Mike Bobinski said Friday's game had been scrapped because of continuing concerns over COVID-19.

"As we stated last week, we know the history and tradition of this great rivalry game and how much it means to our current students, alumni and fans," they said Tuesday. "Both universities worked extremely hard in an effort to play, but at this time, it just

isn't possible."

The final month of the season, including bowl games, is likely to be affected by the pandemic, just as the regular season was. Approximately 125 games since late August have been postponed or canceled, including the Frisco Bowl scheduled for Saturday. SMU had to withdraw from the game about 25 miles from its Dallas campus, and its opponent, UTSA, is switching to the First Responders Bowl at SMU's stadium Dec. 26 against a team to be determined later.

In Indiana, the cancellation came just as the Boilermakers (2-4) appeared ready to resume football activities after pausing them a week ago on the same day Indiana

took the same step.

It's unclear whether the cancellation will end a bizarre year which began with Brohm missing the season-opener after testing positive for COVID-19.

"We're not looking down that road," coach Jeff Brohm said Monday when asked whether Purdue might be interesting in playing in a bowl game since there's no minimum number of wins needed this season.

The cancellation is a disappointing blow to the Hoosiers (6-1), who are having one of their best seasons in decades. The Hoosiers haven't won a bowl game since 1991, and Allen believes that would be a good way to wrap up a historic season.

DODEA Pacific cancels spring sports again

Stars and Stripes

For the second straight school year, DODEA Pacific's spring sports season will see no competition between schools due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

Any hope for spring football has also been extinguished.

DODEA Pacific officials announced Tuesday that spring sports season — track and field, baseball, soccer and softball — will be limited to in-school practice only due to DODEA's health-protection guidelines. The spring season is scheduled for Jan. 19 to May 1, 2021.

"The athletics season will continue to look different in the spring, with mitigation measures in place for the safety of our student-athletes and coaches," DODEA Pacific athletics coordinator Tom McKinney said in a statement Tuesday.

Questions about whether the situation might change once a vaccine does become available were not immediately answered. Schools can also petition to have individual sports reinstated while presenting a detailed plan for conducting it safely.

In the same statement, DODEA Pacific said football cannot be offered in the spring "due

to its high-contact nature; football is a high-risk sport for transmitting COVID-19."

Currently, U.S. bases in Japan, Okinawa, Korea and Guam fall under Health Protection Condition B, which under DODEA guidelines, means athletes and teams are limited to individual workouts and conditioning.

Contact is prohibited; even passing of a ball between teammates is not permitted.

McKinney said that while sports remain "an important part of the high school experience," the pandemic is a reality that prevents sports from being conducted normally.

"You just have to be creative about it when you do your practices, and hope something opens up when there's a window of opportunity," he said.

The decision to limit spring sports to in-school workouts was met with disappointment.

"I'm sick about it," longtime Kubasaki assistant baseball coach Kent Grubbs said.

Matt Whipple, who has coached Yokota girls soccer since 2004, said he was "extremely disappointed" by the decision, "especially for the students. I don't think it's what's best for our student-athletes."

Since the coronavirus pandemic surfaced last winter, the DODEA Pacific sports picture has completely changed.

Far East basketball and cheerleading were canceled after one day on Feb. 20. In-school instruction was halted in Korea on Feb. 24 and in Japan on March 27. Okinawa saw one day of spring sports competition, March 25, before schools there transitioned to remote learning.

DODEA Pacific's fall sports offerings were limited to tennis, golf and cross country.

DODEA Korea was able to add volleyball and doubles tennis when the district and U.S. Forces Korea submitted a plan to do those sports safely, DODEA Pacific officials said. DODEA Korea also was able to add basketball for the coming winter months.

That process remains open, DODEA Pacific officials said.

"With the command's support and DODEA approval, districts may work with military and public health officials to put in place appropriate mitigation measures to offer additional sports," DODEA Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson said in a statement.

McKinney also said DODEA Pacific was leaving open the

possibility of having Far East track and field virtually, as it is doing with cross country, the results of which are to be announced next month.

"Track lends itself to that better than other sports," said Dan Galvin, coach of defending Far East Division II champion Yokota in track and cross country. "Track and field athletes can still have a meaningful season by competing against themselves and the clock or measuring tape."

But for the most part, schools must deal with possible resumption of spring sports in 2022.

"(This is) uncharted territory for everybody, as programs will all be on equal footing once things come back to normal," said defending Far East Division I track champion Humphreys coach Ron Merriwether.

Football coaches said they plan to push DODEA Pacific to allow individual workouts.

"We will lobby to be allowed to use balls and basically begin coaching the sport while also conditioning, especially when the vaccine arrives," said Sergio Mendoza, coach of defending Far East D-I football champion Kadena.

Carton, Marquette knock off No. 9 Creighton

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — D.J. Carton scored a career-high 20 points, and Greg Elliott and Dawson Garcia combined for 23 of their 28 in the second half to lead Marquette past No. 9 Creighton 89-84 on Monday night.

The Golden Eagles (5-2, 1-0 Big East) came back from a 12-point deficit to take a lead and then held off a couple of late comeback bids by the Bluejays (4-2, 0-1).

Mitch Ballock went 8-for-13 on three-pointers and had a season-high 26 points to lead Creighton. Denzel Mahoney added 21 points.

Marquette used a 19-7 spurt to create a

75-63 cushion with 5½ minutes left. The Bluejays ran off nine straight points to get to 76-75.

Koby McEwen made two free throws for an 85-80 lead with 30 seconds left.

Creighton struggled at the free-throw line in the second half, making only 11 of 22.

No. 19 Rutgers 74, Maryland 60: Ron Harper Jr. scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half, and the visiting Scarlet Knights won their Big Ten opener for the first time in school history.

Rutgers (5-0, 1-0) broke open a tight game with a 10-0 run that made it 50-38 with 11:49 left. Myles Johnson started and ended the spree with dunks, and Harper contributed a

three-pointer.

After Donta Scott stemmed the surge with a long-range jumper, Harper connected from behind the arc and Jacob Young scored in the lane to give the Scarlet Knights a 14-point cushion.

This is the first time since 1934-35 that Rutgers has opened with five straight double-digit victories.

Scott scored 20 and Eric Ayala added 12 for the Terrapins (4-2, 0-1), who finished in a tie atop the conference last season.

The Scarlet Knights were winless in Big Ten openers since joining the league in 2014 and were 16-73 in conference play before going 11-9 last season.