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Over 90M ballots cast ahead of election day

The Washington Post

At least 90 million Americans have already cast their ballots for the general election with three days left until Election Day, a historic early turnout that underscores voters' intense desire to be heard in a divisive election despite the voting challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The massive early turnout is roughly 65% of the 139 million votes cast in 2016, and it essentially guarantees that, for the first time in history, a majority of ballots will be cast before Election Day. The early turnout puts the country on pace for record voter participation not seen in more than a century, and if the current rate holds, more than 100 million ballots will have been cast before Tuesday.

Democrats have had an edge in early voting, but that gap has narrowed in some key battleground states in recent days, including in Florida, North Carolina and Georgia, according to data maintained by the U.S. Elections Project, a non-partisan early-voting tracker. President Donald Trump has urged his voters to cast their ballots on Election Day, and his campaign is hoping that his

supporters take heed and show up in full force to close that gap.

The record-breaking turnout has stunned election officials and campaign operatives alike, and it has upended the presidential campaigns' expectations of which states would be pivotal to their path to victory. Texas, for example, has led the country in early voting and has already surpassed its 2016 turnout; the number of ballots cast there so far has made the state competitive for the first time in decades.

As the early-voting period comes to an end in most states Monday, some voters have taken extraordinary measures to make sure they can cast their ballots early, including waiting hours in line and traveling across the country to avoid problems with mail delivery. Their overwhelming demand to vote early comes despite the president's attacks on the integrity of mail voting, and as spikes in positive coronavirus cases have exacerbated voters' anxiety about potential exposure at busy polling places Tuesday.

"Obviously, this race is far from decided. But to the extent that President Trump is enter-

ing Election Day with a deficit, the degree of difficulty that he's facing to surmount that deficit is substantially higher because of his tactical rejection of early voting," said Tom Bonier, chief executive of TargetSmart, a Democratic data firm.

Roughly two dozen states and Washington, D.C., will allow early voting through Monday.

One of those voters who raced to get their ballots in before Tuesday was Joe LaMuraglia, 52, who drove more than 800 miles to Georgia from Massachusetts to vote in person because his absentee ballot never arrived. LaMuraglia, a registered Democrat from Savannah, Ga., has been living in Boston during the pandemic and requested his absentee ballot in early September. The election office had mailed it out on Sept. 18, he said, but the ballot was somehow sent to Virginia, where he has never lived.

When his ballot had not arrived as of Tuesday, he decided to drive to Georgia instead. After a 15-hour road trip, LaMuraglia waited in line for 52 minutes at his early-voting site and finally cast his vote for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden.

"It's too important to sit this

one out," he said. After voting, "I had a sense of relief, just this huge sigh of relief, that I got it done."

At least 90,488,149 Americans had voted as of Saturday afternoon, including at least 32.9 million who cast votes in person, according to the U.S. Elections Project, run by Michael McDonald, a political scientist at the University of Florida. In the 20 states where party registration data was available, 45.9% were Democrats, 30.2% were Republicans and 23.3% had no party affiliation, according to the tracker.

Nearly 28% of the early ballots nationally were cast by voters who did not participate in the 2016 election, according to a TargetSmart analysis.

Black voters have turned out in large numbers nationally and in some key battleground states, such as Georgia and North Carolina.

And voters under 30 have exceeded their 2016 early-voting rates in the majority of battleground states, amid signs that they may be on track to massively turn out as they did in the 2018 midterms, when they more than doubled their rate of voting compared with the prior midterm election.

Navy's Hawaii fuel tank plan update rejected by regulators

Associated Press

HONOLULU — State and federal regulators have rejected a U.S. Navy plan to upgrade a fuel storage facility in Hawaii, asking for more information about protection measures for the underground tanks.

The Hawaii Department of Health and the federal Environmental Protection Agency

issued a letter last Monday saying the military's proposal for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility "lacks detail, clarity, rationale and justification."

The Navy submitted the plan in September 2019, five years after a 27,000-gallon leak happened at the Honolulu storage site.

The agencies said the proposal does not go far enough

toward protecting Oahu's Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer from possible damage caused by the 20 underground tanks.

The Navy "has not demonstrated to the regulatory agencies that the proposed alternative is the most protective of the groundwater and drinking water," the letter said.

The agencies offered the Navy and the Defense Logistics

Agency "an opportunity to cure the deficiencies and resubmit the decision document."

The Navy's proposal for "double-wall equivalency secondary containment" or removal of fuel from Red Hill around the year 2045 requires further discussion and a more precise definition of double-wall equivalency, the agencies said.

Flight halted after bird strikes rotator

BY JAMES BOLINGER
AND THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — More than 150 passengers and 10 pets were forced to quarantine at an air station gym overnight Oct. 24 after a bird struck their Patriot Express flight aboard a Boeing 767.

The Patriot Express, commonly called the rotator, is a Defense Department contract flight used by service members and families who are traveling between the

United States and overseas bases for new assignments or leave.

Due to coronavirus mitigation measures, all the passengers had to be kept apart from the base population, base spokesman Maj. Joshua Diddams, told Stars and Stripes on Friday via email.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron executive officer, Maj. Brian Jordan, had the gyms prepared with food, baby formula, water, cots, shower facilities and linens prior to the passengers' arrival, Diddams said.

Volunteers from the Preventative Medi-

cine detachment, Marine Corps Community Services, the Red Cross, Chaplain Corps and the USO pitched in, too, Diddams said. He said headquarters squadron commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Hutchinson even made a late-night run to 7-Eleven to get milk for the children.

After a 24-hour stay the passengers boarded the Patriot Express, which continued on to Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo and then to Seattle on Tuesday.

"This situation served as another opportunity to highlight the capabilities and flexibility of MCAS Iwakuni," Diddams said.

USAF Academy football team honors fallen grads

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

In a section of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Falcon Stadium on Saturday, cutouts of nearly two dozen graduates who have passed away "watched" as the academy's football team fell to Mountain West conference rival Boise State, 49-30.

The fallen grads' cutouts are part of a program launched in September by the athletic department to raise money to support cadet athletes and ensure

that coronavirus restrictions don't mean the nearly 47,000-capacity stadium is empty for home games.

"We're doing everything we can to keep everyone at the academy safe while complying with state and local guidelines, but we also want to try to fill the stands," Eric Silakowski, the athletic department's associate director and executive director of development, told Stars and Stripes in a telephone interview from Colorado Springs, Colo.,

last Monday.

Days later, Superintendent Lt. Gen. Richard M. Clark announced that, because of rising infection numbers, cadets would not be required to attend the Oct. 31 football game.

Some did, anyway, and a section away from them, 22 fallen grads had been "seated" in the stands a day before the game.

The athletic department started selling cutouts after coronavirus restrictions led the academy to bar all but cadets

from attending home football games. Even when all 4,000 cadets attend games, which was a requirement until last week when coronavirus restrictions were stepped up, they only filled 10 percent of Falcon Stadium.

And if the pandemic continues to bar fans from attending sports events, cutout programs may be launched for the academy's hockey, wrestling, and men's and women's basketball programs, he said.

Halloween celebrated at a distance amid pandemic

Associated Press

Ghosts, skeletons, princesses and black cats roamed the streets, as usual, this Halloween, but they kept their distance, wore face coverings and carried hand sanitizer in their quest for treats.

Like with everything else this year, the pandemic also left its mark on Halloween. Parades, parties and haunted houses were canceled due to bans on large gatherings and concerns that spooky celebrations could spread the coronavirus.

But across the U.S., parents and costumed kids found ways to preserve the essence of the holiday Saturday while also observing the rules of social distancing.

In the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Tomeka Ray took her 4-year-old daughter, Diamond, trick-or-treating in the af-

ternoon. The girl, dressed as a princess, wore her mask and carried sanitizer, with more of the disinfecting gel in the car for good measure, Ray said, so "I wasn't too worried."

At one home neighbors had rigged a remote treat-delivery system fashioned out of a ventilation tube, with a cardboard cutout at the end colored to make it look like a dragon's mouth.

"I like that. I really do. That's the third house I've seen that has that," Ray said.

Caden Korchuk, 11, and friend Jayden Schoning, 10, both dressed as skeletons, also appreciated getting their candy delivered from a distance.

"Everything out here is really cool because of all the chutes," Korchuk said.

In Glen Allen, Va., just outside Richmond, neighbors left individually wrapped

bags of candy on tables at the end of driveways to avoid having dozens of kids coming to their doors and sticking their hands in the same big, germey candy bowls.

Matt Cheadle, 35, a furniture designer, called it "extremely" socially distanced trick-or-treating.

Parker, his 5-year-old son, was going as Yoshi, the green dinosaur from the Mario Kart video game series, and the chance to show off his costume and get candy is all he's talked about recently

"He's already had so much taken away from him this year," Cheadle said. "We think this is a small compromise for Halloween. The little kiddos will still dress up, they'll still get to go driveway to driveway, but not door to door."

Earthquake death toll rises higher in Turkey

Associated Press

IZMIR, Turkey — Rescue workers extricated a 70-year-old man from a collapsed building in western Turkey on Sunday, some 34 hours after a strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea struck Turkey and Greece, killing at least 71 people and injuring more than 900.

It was the latest series of remarkable rescues after the Friday afternoon earthquake, which was centered in the Aegean northeast of the Greek island of Samos. Search-and-rescue teams were working in nine toppled or damaged buildings in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, but appeared to be finding more bodies Sunday than survivors.

The earthquake was centered in the Aegean northeast of the Greek island of Samos. Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) raised the death toll Sunday in Izmir province to 69. The agency said 949 people were injured in Turkey, with more than 220 still receiving treatment Sunday. Two teenagers were killed Friday on Samos and at least 19 others were injured.

There was some debate over the magnitude of the earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey rated it 7.0, while Istanbul's Kandilli Institute put it at 6.9 and Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said it measured 6.6.

Ahmet Citim, 70, was pulled out of the rubble in the middle of the night and was hospitalized. Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that Citim said: "I never lost hope." The minister visited the survivor and said he was doing well.

The quake triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district of Izmir, drowning one elderly woman.

Grave missteps in America's virus response as cases surge

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A president who downplayed the coronavirus threat, scorned masks and undercut scientists at every turn. Governors who resisted or rolled back containment measures amid public backlash. State lawmakers who used federal COVID-19 aid to plug budget holes instead of beefing up testing and contact tracing.

As a powerful new wave of infections sweeps the United States just ahead of Election Day, the nation's handling of the nearly 8-month-old crisis has been marked by what health experts see as grave missteps, wasted time and squandered opportunities by leaders at all levels of government.

The result: The country could be looking at a terrible winter.

"The inconsistency of the response is what's been so frustrating," said Dr. Irwin Redlener of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. "If we had

just been disciplined about employing all these public health methods early and aggressively, we would not be in the situation we are in now."

Though Redlener sees some of the new wave as inevitable, he estimates at least 130,000 of the nation's more than 227,000 deaths could have been avoided had the country more widely embraced masks and social distancing.

Even if a Chinese-style lockdown wasn't possible, Redlener said, a more modest approach like Canada's, with a strong central message of caution in reopening and widespread mask-wearing and distancing, would have saved lives.

Now the U.S. is seeing cases spike, especially in the Midwest and the Plains, with the country posting a record high number of new infections last week of nearly 500,000.

Governors in many of the hard-hit states have been under fierce political pressure that has made it difficult to enact

the kind of measures public health officials have said are necessary to stop the spread of the virus and keep hospitals from being overwhelmed.

In the early days of the outbreak, governors were nearly universal in enacting aggressive restrictions to try to flatten the curve. But they quickly faced backlash from residents who were irate over the economic devastation and what they saw as an infringement on their constitutional freedoms.

While some of the blame goes to local leaders and their supporters, Dr. Howard Markel, a public health historian at the University of Michigan, said a large share belongs to Trump and other administration officials who have undercut and insulted infectious disease experts, not supported governors taking tougher steps and have themselves refused to wear masks.

"That sets an example, whether you recognize it or not," he said.

Powerful typhoon slams into Philippines

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A super typhoon blew into the eastern Philippines with disastrous force Sunday, killing at least 10 people and triggering volcanic mudflows that engulfed about 150 houses before weakening as it blew away from the country, officials said.

Typhoon Goni blasted into the eastern island province of Catanduanes at dawn from the Pacific with sustained winds of 140 mph and gusts of 174 mph, threatening some provinces still recovering from a deadly typhoon that hit a week ago.

Goni barreled through densely populated regions and threatened to sideswipe Manila, which shut down its main airport, but shifted southward Sunday night and spared the capital, the government weather agency said.

At least nine people were killed in the hard-hit province of Albay, including a father and son. Villagers fled to safety as the typhoon approached, but the two apparently stayed put in the community in Guinobatan town where about 150 houses

were inundated by volcanic mudflow.

"The child was found 15 kilometers (9 miles) away," Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara told DZMM radio, adding that the boy was swept away by mudflows and found in the next town.

He did not say whether there were any other residents trapped by the rampaging mudflows in the community and added that downed wires made it hard for people to communicate. The Office of Civil Defense reported that three Guinobatan residents were missing, but it was not immediately clear if they were from the mudflow-hit community.

The other deaths in Albay included a villager who was pinned by a fallen tree. One person was killed in Catanduanes province.

Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency, had feared that the typhoon could wreak major damage due to its enormous force. The Philippine weather agency reinforced those concerns, saying that within 12 hours after the typhoon's landfall, people could face "catastrophic, violent winds and intense to torrential rainfall."

Many travelers to NY must get tested

Associated Press

ALBANY — Starting Wednesday, New York will require travelers from non-neighboring states to get a coronavirus test before, and after, they arrive in the state if they want to avoid a full 14-day quarantine.

New York for months had attempted to maintain a list of states with high COVID-19 infection rates, where travelers from those states would be required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. It is now scrapping that effort amid a nationwide surge.

Instead, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that travelers from all non-neighboring states who don't want to quarantine for two weeks must test negative for COVID-19 no more than three days before they enter New York.

Individuals arriving without proof of a negative test won't be stopped from entering the state, but will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

Individuals who tested negative will still have to quarantine for three days after they arrive and then take a second test. If that's negative, they can stop quarantining.

Alaska

JUNEAU — The Alaska Legislative Council approved a measure that requires lawmakers, employees and reporters to be screened for the coronavirus when entering the Capitol and to wear masks or face coverings in the building and other legislative offices.

The council also voted Thursday to keep the Capitol building closed to the public until at least January, when the next Legislature convenes. Legislative staff and reporters will still be allowed into the building, KTOO Public Media reported.

The council voted 9-1 to mandate face coverings and 8-2 to require screenings to enter the Capitol. Republican Rep. DeLena Johnson was the only person on the council to vote against both measures.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — The number of deaths in Arkansas due to the illness caused by the coronavirus increased by 25 on Saturday and the number of reported cases rose by 1,316, according to the Arkansas Department of Health.

The department reported a total of 1,925 confirmed and probable deaths due to COVID-19, and 112,190 cases since the pandemic began in March.

The number of people hospitalized declined by 16 from Friday to 652 and 100,067 people have recovered while there are 10,185 active cases, according to the department.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana reported more than 3,000 new coronavirus cases for a third straight day Saturday as the state's new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continued to surge.

The Indiana State Department of Health also reported 46 newly recorded COVID-19 deaths, raising the state's pandemic death toll to 4,332, including confirmed and presumed coronavirus infections.

The 3,505 new infections reported Saturday came two days after the state agency reported 3,649 new infections. Those cases reported Thursday set a daily high of newly reported cases of COVID-19 and were the first time Indiana had recorded more than 3,000 positive coronavirus cases in one day. The state recorded 3,205 new infections Friday.

Nebraska

LINCOLN — Nebraska is reporting nearly 1,500 new coronavirus cases for just a single day and another high for the number of people hospitalized because of COVID-19.

The state Department of Health and Human Services online virus tracker said that as of Friday evening, Nebraska has had 69,645 coronavirus cases since the pandemic

began. That was an increase of 1,495 cases since Thursday, or 2.2%.

The department also said that 584 people were hospitalized, an increase of 56 or 10.6% from the previous high Thursday of 528.

The health department also reported an additional nine COVID-19-related deaths to bring the total to 646.

Oregon

SALEM — Oregon health authorities reported Saturday that 14 more people in the state have died from COVID-19, matching the highest death toll reported in a single day as the state struggles to contain the coronavirus.

The latest deaths occurred from Sept. 26, when an 80-year-old woman died in her home, through Friday, when a 66-year-old woman died at a hospital in Bend.

The Oregon Health Authority on Saturday also reported 555 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, a day after announcing a record 600 additional cases. Fourteen deaths were also reported on July 28.

South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS — Active cases of the coronavirus in South Dakota shot past 14,000 on Saturday as the state marked its fourth day with over 1,000 new cases.

The new figure of 14,373 active infections means that roughly one out of every 61 people in the state is infected with the coronavirus. South Dakota has posted the nation's second-worst rate of virus spread per capita in the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

The new high points in cases come as the state caps its deadliest month of the virus yet. Ten more people died from COVID-19, bringing the number of deaths reported this month to 202. The state has recorded a total of 425 deaths over the course of the pandemic.

The number of people hospitalized by the virus also set an all-time high with 415 people needing hospital care.

Tennessee

MEMPHIS — After saying it may not provide updated COVID-19 case data this weekend as it upgrades its national electronic disease surveillance system, Tennessee reported an increase of more than 1,180 cases statewide on Saturday.

The Tennessee Department of Health announced in a news release late Friday that it may not be able to update its virus case data on Saturday and Sunday due to the upgrade. Tennessee usually updates the number of coronavirus-related cases, deaths and other data on the department's website on a daily basis.

The department's website was updated Saturday afternoon. Tennessee reported an increase of 12 deaths, raising the state's total to 3,353. The state has seen more than 260,600 cases since the pandemic began, health officials said.

The upgrade will not affect test result notification for patients, the health department said.

Texas

AUSTIN — The number of coronavirus cases reported by the Texas health department surpassed 900,000 on Saturday, and more than 18,000 people in the state have now died due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

There were a reported 6,845 new cases and 90 additional deaths to bring the totals to 900,596 cases and 18,024 who have died since the pandemic began in March.

The health department reported 102,769 active cases of the virus and that 782,006 people have recovered, while the number of hospitalizations increased by 69 to 5,696.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Walmart returns guns to US store displays

NY NEW YORK — Walmart has reversed course, announcing it is returning ammunition and firearms to their displays in its U.S. stores.

The nation's largest retailer said it had removed the items from displays due to "civil unrest" in some areas of the country. Guns and ammunition, however, had remained for sale at the stores, just not visible to shoppers.

"As the current incidents have remained geographically isolated, we have made the decision to begin returning these products to the sales floor today," Walmart said in a statement.

Guard, 11 inmates injured in bus crash

PA CONEWAGO — A state Department of Corrections bus that was carrying 38 inmates was involved in a crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, leaving a corrections officer and 11 inmates with minor injuries.

State police said the crash in the turnpike's eastbound lanes in Conewago Township occurred when one of the vehicle's tires "suddenly deflated" and the bus struck a concrete barrier before coming to a stop in the left lane.

Pregnant woman pushes labor aside to cast vote

FL ORLANDO — A pregnant Florida woman didn't let labor stop her from casting her vote in the presidential election, refusing to go to the hospital until she filled out her ballot.

Officials with the Orange County Supervisor of Elections

said the woman was already in labor when she arrived at the polling site with her husband, news outlets reported.

Elections employee Karen Briceno Gonzalez said the husband asked for a ballot for his wife and later told the staff that she was in the car, in labor and refusing to go to the hospital until she was able to vote.

Briceno Gonzalez said she rushed outside to give the woman her ballot and check her ID. While doing some controlled Lamaze breathing, the woman filled the ballot out right away.

New Year's fireworks show canceled this year

NV LAS VEGAS — The annual fireworks show on New Year's Eve in Las Vegas was canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority said in a statement that it would cancel its annual fireworks show on Dec. 31.

"Las Vegas has always been a bucket list New Year's Eve destination, and we are going to make sure that remains the case — celebrating putting 2020 in the rear-view mirror in an "Only Vegas" way," Authority CEO Steve Hill said.

Transamerica Pyramid sold for \$650 million

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The Transamerica Pyramid, one of San Francisco's iconic buildings, sold for \$650 million eight months after a sales agreement was reached.

New York investor Michael Shvo, Deutsche Finance America and other investors bought the building from Aegon, owner of namesake insurance

company Transamerica Corp., the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The building, the second tallest in the city, had never been previously sold.

Debris falls down from skyscraper; no one hurt

NY NEW YORK — Debris fell from a supertall skyscraper nearing completion in New York City as the top of a crane spun in the wind, but no one was injured, officials said.

Video posted to social media showed the top of the crane revolving in a full circle in rainy weather at the building on West 57th Street in Manhattan.

The crane is stable and is being evaluated, Buildings Department spokesperson Andrew Rudansky said in an email. The crane is designed to spin in the wind, he said, but inspectors are trying to determine what caused debris to fall.

2 found with explosives amid recent ATM thefts

PA PHILADELPHIA — Two men were charged with possessing explosives after the van they were in was searched in Philadelphia as officials investigated bombings of cash machines across the city in recent days, the state attorney general announced.

Philadelphia police saw a group of vehicles in a hotel parking lot and followed them as they left, the office of Attorney General Josh Shapiro said in a news release.

Police followed the vehicles on an interstate highway and into the downtown area, the release said.

The van was pulled over and searched by police and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. They discovered

"illegal explosives that bear the street vernacular 'quarter or half sticks of dynamite,' a handheld propane tank torch, a taser and various tools including: electric drills, bolt cutters, and machetes," according to the attorney general's office.

Suspect hurt when gun fires during pat down

MN ST. PAUL — A suspect was wounded when his handgun fired during a pat down search by police in St. Paul, according to authorities.

The incident happened when patrol officers saw two men acting suspiciously, police said. One of the men was detained and when officers were patting him down, they discovered he had a handgun.

Officials said at some point the gun discharged and struck the man in the leg. His injuries aren't believed to be life threatening.

Police: Mom pretended baby was in stolen car

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago mother was charged with filing a false police report after she said her SUV had been stolen with her 7-month-old son inside — a detail she later admitted she added to accelerate the hunt for the vehicle, police said.

The child was found, unharmed, at the home of a babysitter and Sadie Owens, 30, was charged with the felony count.

According to authorities, Owens told police she had left her son in her SUV while she ran into a convenience store on the city's Southwest Side only to return and find that her SUV was gone.

Police found the vehicle a couple of hours later.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

College football roundup

Without Lawrence, Clemson slips past BC

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Freshman DJ Uiagalelei threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns in place of Trevor Lawrence, home with COVID-19, and No. 1 Clemson rallied from 18-points down in the first half to beat Boston College 34-28 on Saturday.

Tigers coach Dabo Swinney said after the game that Lawrence also will miss the Tigers' game next week at No. 4 Notre Dame.

Travis Etienne became the Atlantic Coast Conference's career rushing leader and his second TD put Clemson (7-0, 6-0) ahead for good. A jarring week for the Tigers ended with their 28th straight victory over league competition, 10th straight over the Eagles and 27th in a row at home.

Clemson was missing several key players. Lawrence was out after testing positive for the virus and starting linebackers James Skalski and Mike Jones Jr. were missing because of injuries.

Boston College (4-3, 3-3) took advantage, putting the Tigers in a 28-10 hole in the second quarter with the virus-reduced crowd stunned to near silence.

Uiagalelei had a 30-yard TD run on Clemson's opening third-quarter drive to begin the comeback, then threw an 8-yard scoring strike to Amari Rodgers that drew the Tigers to 28-26.

No. 2 Alabama 41, Mississippi State 0: Mac Jones threw four touchdown passes to DeVonta Smith, who had 203 receiving yards, and the host Crimson Tide routed the Bulldogs.

Alabama (6-0) had a dominant defensive performance, handing new Mississippi State coach Mike Leach the first shutout of his college career. It was the Tide's first shutout since a 24-0 victory over Mississippi State on Nov. 10, 2018.

No. 3 Ohio State 38, No. 18 Penn State 25: Justin Fields passed for 318 yards and four touchdowns, two to Chris Olave, and the Buckeyes won on the road.

Jeremy Ruckert caught a pair of touchdowns passes, Master Teague II ran for another scored and Ohio State (2-0) generated 526 yards of offense in its 15th straight Big Ten win and 10th straight on the road against a ranked opponent.

No. 4 Notre Dame 31, Georgia Tech 13: Kyren Williams ran for two touchdowns, Ian Book passed for another and the Fighting Irish moved on to their biggest game of the season with a dominant defensive performance on the road. Book completed 18 of 26 passes for 199 yards in another efficient performance for Notre Dame (6-0, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

No. 5 Georgia 14, Kentucky 3: Zamir White ran for a career-high 131 yards and a touchdown, Stetson Bennett also ran for a score and the Bulldogs won on the road for their 11th straight victory in the series.

Their scores opened both halves as Georgia (4-1 Southeastern Conference) improved to 5-1 after off weeks under coach Kirby Smart. The Bulldogs had 215 yards on the ground.

Texas 41, No. 6 Oklahoma State 34, OT: Sam Ehlinger threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Joshua Moore in overtime and Joseph Ossai sealed the victory by sacking quarterback Spencer Sanders as the Longhorns knocked off the previously unbeaten Cowboys in Stillwater, Okla.

Oklahoma State (4-1, 3-1 Big 12) out-gained Texas 530 yards to 287, but the Cowboys turned the ball over four times and saw their hopes to reach the College Football Playoff take a major blow.

No. 7 Cincinnati 49, Memphis 10: Desmond Ridder threw three touchdown passes and ran for two scores, Jerome Ford also scored twice and the host Bearcats improved to 5-0 overall, 3-0 in the American Athletic Conference.

Playing in a Nippert Stadium nearly empty due to COVID-19 protocols, Cincinnati decisively snapped a five-game losing streak against the Tigers (3-2, 2-2).

No. 8 Texas A&M 43, Arkansas 31: Kellen Mond threw for 260 yards and three touchdowns as the host Aggies built a big lead and held on beat the Razorbacks for the ninth straight time.

Jalen Wydermyer had a career-high 92 yards receiving with two touchdowns. Ainas Smith ran for a touchdown and caught a TD pass in the first half to help A&M win its third straight since losing to No. 2 Alabama.

No. 10, Florida 41, Missouri 17: Kadarius Toney scored three times, Kyle Trask became the first player in school history with four touchdown passes in four consecutive games and the host Gators returned from a three-week layoff to handle the Tigers.

Florida's easiest win of the season came after a COVID-19 outbreak forced the Southeastern Conference to postpone two of their games. It also included a benches-clearing scuffle at halftime that involved both coaches.

No. 11 BYU 41, Western Kentucky 10: Zach Wilson threw for 224 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 35 yards and another score to help the host Cougars rout the Hilltoppers

Tyler Allgeier ran for 95 yards and a

touchdown for BYU.

Michigan State 28, No. 13 Michigan 24: Rocky Lombardi threw for 323 yards — 196 to Ricky White — and three touchdowns to help the Spartans to an upset at Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Spartans (1-1, 1-1 Big Ten) appeared to be the better team all afternoon on both sides of the ball in Mel Tucker's debut as coach in the rivalry.

Tucker became just the second coach to beat Michigan in his first attempt with the Spartans, joining Alabama coach Nick Saban, who did it in 1995. The former Colorado coach started his career as a graduate assistant for Saban and the Spartans.

Virginia 44, No. 15 North Carolina 41: Brennan Armstrong threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score, and the host Cavaliers scored 28 consecutive points before holding on to beat the Tar Heels.

Armstrong hit Shane Simpson for 71 yards, Ra'Shaun Henry for 18 and Tony Poljan for 17, the latter giving Virginia (2-4, 2-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) a 41-20 lead with 5:34 left in the third quarter for its fourth consecutive win in the series.

West Virginia 37, No. 16 Kansas State 10: Jarret Doege threw two touchdown passes, Dylan Tonkery returned an interception for a score and the host Mountaineers beat the Wildcats. Leddie Brown ran for 102 yards and a score to help West Virginia (4-2, 3-2 Big 12) knock Kansas State from its solo perch atop the league standings.

No. 17 Indiana 37, Rutgers 21: Michael Penix Jr. threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score to help the visiting Hoosiers beat the mistake-prone Scarlet Knights in a game that almost included a crazy TD. Penix had touchdown tosses of 15, 2 and 1 yard. He also scored on a quarterback sneak for Indiana (2-0, 2-0 Big Ten).

No. 20 Coastal Carolina 51, Georgia State 0: Grayson McCall passed for 254 yards and four touchdowns, Jaivon Heiligh scored twice and the Chanticleers won on the road.

No. 23 Iowa State 52, Kansas 22: Breece Hall matched a career high with 185 yards rushing and two touchdowns, Brock Purdy threw two TD passes and had another score on the ground and the Cyclones routed the host Jayhawks.

No. 24 Oklahoma 62, Texas Tech 28: Rhamondre Stevenson ran for three first-half touchdowns in his return for the visiting Sooners, Spencer Rattler threw for 288 yards and two score and Oklahoma beat Texas Tech for their third win in a row.

Buechele propels No. 22 Mustangs past Midshipmen

Associated Press

DALLAS — In one week, Shane Buechele went from his worst passer efficiency rating in two seasons at SMU to his best.

The Mustangs enjoyed a pretty good bounce-back as well.

Buechele threw three touchdown passes, Ulysses Bentley IV and Tyler Lavine ran for two scores apiece and No. 22 SMU rebounded from its first loss with a 51-37 victory over Navy on Saturday night.

The Mustangs (6-1, 3-1 American Athletic) scored 30 consecutive points from late in the second quarter to early in the fourth, a run that started with 10 points in the final 7 seconds of the first half.

“I didn’t see any one-handed catches or any miraculous tackles or any of that,” SMU coach Sonny Dykes said. “I just saw 11 guys doing their job and playing hard and doing what they’re supposed to do. When we do that, this is a good football team.”

After the first of Buechele’s two scoring tosses to Rashee Rice with 7 seconds to go before halftime, Nelson Smith fumbled a handoff and the Mustangs’ Gary Wiley won the scramble for the loose ball at the Midshipmen 18 with a second remaining. Chris Nagggar’s 34-yard field goal made it 31-17.

“Bad decision on my part,” Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. “I shouldn’t have put them in that situation, just hand them the ball. (We should have) just taken a knee.”

SMU should have been pinned inside its 5 for their first possession of the second half, but the Midshipmen’s Devin Mathews stepped on the goal

line while batting a bouncing punt back toward the field. The Mustangs took over at the 20, and Buechele later connected with Austin Upshaw for a 42-yard TD.

A week after finishing with a passer efficiency rating below 100 for the first time in two seasons at SMU, Buechele was at 207.5 after the graduate transfer from Texas completed 23 of 28 passes for 300 yards with no interceptions.

“This is one of those games that really helps when you have an experienced quarterback because Navy’s going to show you so many different looks defensively,” Dykes said. “We gave him a lot when it came to checking to runs and checking in and out of certain things versus certain looks. I thought he executed pretty flawlessly.”

Smith had 55 yards rushing and a touchdown by early in the second quarter but finished with 54 for the Midshipmen (3-4, 3-2) as SMU controlled the triple-option attack in the second half a week after giving up 313 yards rushing in a 42-13 loss to No. 7 Cincinnati.

“You’re disappointed because you work really hard to have a chance to play a big game like that and didn’t play your best,” Dykes said. “It’s always good to see your guys respond like you hope they will, and they did.”

Ulysses Bentley finished with 149 yards on 25 carries and set up Rice’s second TD with a 61-yard catch when he came out of the backfield as Buechele was faking a run up the middle and the quarterback hit him in stride.

Lavine put SMU in front for the first time at 21-14 on a 10-yard run midway through the second quarter.

Sears delivers No. 25 Broncos over Falcons

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Jack Sears’ first throw as a starting quarterback in two years went for a 75-yard touchdown.

That’s not a bad way to make an instant impression with his new teammates.

Sears threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score while filling in for starter Hank Bachmeier, Avery Williams scored on an 88-yard kickoff return and No. 25 Boise State beat Air Force 49-30 on Saturday night.

“Jack’s a cool customer,” Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. “He’s got it. He’s got that energy about him.”

The last time Sears started a game was 2018 — when he was a redshirt freshman at Southern California. He threw for 235 yards and two TDs that day against Arizona State.

In between then and Saturday, he’s had quite a journey: playing backup for the Trojans and sitting out last season to focus on his degree before transferring to the Broncos. He played a few snaps in a blowout win last weekend against Utah State — throwing three passes — but nothing like his performance Saturday, with Bachmeier not making the trip for an unspecified reason.

Asked about when he found out he was starting, Sears played coy. He did say the decision wasn’t sprung on him. Sears made the most of his chance by finishing 17-for-20 for 280 yards and no turnovers.

Simply following Harsin’s advice.

“Coach preached to let loose. Have a good time and just trust your training, trust your abilities,” Sears said. “I think that’s why I was able to play so freely tonight.”

CT Thomas hauled in two of Sears’ TD passes, including a tone-setting 75-yarder on the game’s first play. Boise State (2-0, 2-0 Mountain West) has captured 11 straight games over league foes. It’s its longest streak since joining the league

in 2011.

Backup tailback Andrew Van Buren scored on a pair of short runs as he stepped in for George Holani, who appeared to be banged up in the first quarter and didn’t carry the ball again.

The Falcons (1-2, 0-2) saw its nine-game home winning streak snapped. The last team to win at Falcon Stadium? Boise State, in 2018.

Brandon Lewis rushed for 112 yards and a score, while fullback Matthew Murla added two scores for a dinged-up Air Force offense. They entered the game missing leading rusher Timothy Jackson and tailback Kadin Remsburg for undisclosed reasons. The Falcons had quarterback Haaziq Daniels leave the game in the first quarter after being shaken up on a hit. He was replaced by Warren Bryan, who rushed for 87 yards on a day when Air Force gained 415 yards on the ground.

“Boise played a great game. Not to take anything away from them, but we’ve just got to execute better,” Lewis said. “Everybody has to hit their assignment as well. I don’t think we did that good enough, especially in the second half. We’ve got a lot to improve on.”

The Broncos saw the lead trimmed to 35-24 early in the fourth quarter. The Falcons elected to kick to the electric Williams, who stepped out of a tackle and darted down the sideline. It was his sixth return for a score (four on punts, two on kickoffs).

“I’m a dominant punt returner, but I want to show my versatility in every game and in every way as well,” Williams said. “I didn’t let my coaches down today.” A handful of Broncos players didn’t make the trip, including starting safety JL Skinner.

The Broncos were without one player due to the COVID-19 protocols, but the team couldn’t name the player because of privacy reasons.

Giants' Judge says he's learned from Brady

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Before getting the New York Giants job, Joe Judge was mentored by two of the football's best active coaches: Nick Saban of Alabama and Bill Belichick of the Patriots.

It probably wouldn't be wrong to add a third name to the group: Tom Brady.

The four-time Super Bowl MVP worked with Judge for eight seasons in New England and they shared three Super Bowls, some great memories, and a lot of knowledge.

Judge and Brady will be on different sidelines Monday night when the NFC South-leading Bucs (5-2) face Judge and his struggling Giants (1-6) at MetLife Stadium.

Judge said working with Brady was enlightening, especially last season when he added a receivers coach job to his role as Patriots special teams coordinator.

"I learned a lot of ball being around him," Judge said. "How he sees it through a player's perspective. The things that come up in a game and how he handles it. Hearing the way he kind of picks receivers' brains throughout a practice, or things he may see pre-snap. I got a lot of knowledge just listening to him talk to other guys on the team."

The 38-year-old Judge said it is not surprising Brady is playing well at 43, noting the 2000 — yes, 2000 — sixth-round draft pick is an intelligent, fierce competitor who works hard and takes care of his body.

"He's been in all of the situations, however you slice it up, as many times as you can possibly imagine, whether that's through practice or games," Judge said. "This guy is fluent in football."

"Look, he's a great player."

Stopping him is the Giants' job, along with generating an offense against a Tampa Bay defense ranked third in the league.

"The only thing that really gets me excited is winning games," Brady said. "It's

competing hard every week in practice and seeing us improve. We've got a lot of hard-working guys and I think that's really been a reflection of our progress since the beginning of the year. I would really want to see us continue to improve it."

Quite a roll

After a slow start with his new team, Brady has thrown 15 touchdown passes against one interception over his last five games. If he's surprising himself at all, Brady isn't saying.

"Football is the ultimate team sport. From a quarterback's standpoint, so much is trust and confidence in the receiver position, the tight end position. The line's doing an incredible job of blocking," he said. "My job is to throw to the guys who are open, and they've got to make the plays. I think when you see great production, it's really a reflection of an entire offensive unit."

Line moves

With third-year left guard Will Hernandez testing positive for COVID-19 late Wednesday night, it's uncertain who plays Monday.

Three other starters — left tackle Andrew Young, center Nick Gates and right tackle Cam Fleming — did not practice on Thursday. The only starter on the field was right guard Kevin Zeitler.

Judge is hopeful all will be able to play, although Hernandez will probably miss his first game as a Giant.

The easiest fix would be to start either veteran Spencer Pulley or rookie Shane Lemieux at guard. New York also could start Pulley at center and move Gates to guard. However, everything could change with more positive results.

Stingy defense

While the impact of adding Brady is un-

deniable, the Bucs kept the core of what is now a dominant defense. They placed a franchise tag on 2019 NFL sacks leader Shaquil Barrett and re-signed tackle Ndamukong Suh and linebacker Jason Pierre-Paul.

The result: Tampa Bay has the No. 1 rushing defense, yielding an average 74.1 yards. It is second with 25 sacks and tied for third with 12 takeaways.

Linebacker Devin White said there's a lot of room for growth.

"Last week, (defensive coordinator) Todd Bowles said we played average. We played well enough to win, but we played average on defense," White said.

Jones' first

Daniel Jones is always going to have fond memories of his first game against the Bucs. It came last year and was his first career start. Jones made it memorable, throwing for two touchdowns and running for two more, including the winning score on a late scramble up the middle in the 32-31 win over Tampa Bay. New York rallied from an 18-point halftime deficit, although the Buccaneers missed a late makeable field goal.

The No. 6 pick in the 2019 draft, Jones finished 23-for-36 for 336 yards and ran for 28 yards.

Bucs wideouts

Bucs WR Chris Godwin, who's already missed two games with a hamstring injury and a third due to a concussion, broke a finger on a TD catch last week. WRs Mike Evans (ankle) and Scotty Miller (hip/groin) have been hampered much of the season but have not missed any games. Antonio Brown was signed last week as an "insurance policy," according to coach Bruce Arians. He will be serving the final game of an eight-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

Cubs pick up option for \$16.5 million on Rizzo

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs picked up their \$16.5 million option for Anthony Rizzo on Saturday, bringing back the popular first baseman after he struggled during the pandemic-shortened season.

The 31-year-old Rizzo hit just .222 this year for his lowest

batting average since his first year in the majors in 2011. But he has been one of the majors' most productive sluggers since he was acquired in a 2012 trade with San Diego. He's also a key clubhouse leader for the NL Central champions.

Rizzo would have been owed a \$2 million buyout had the Cubs declined his option.

The Cubs also declined their \$3.5 million option for infielder Daniel Descalso, who missed last season because of a left ankle sprain. The 34-year-old Descalso is owed a \$1 million buyout.

In other MLB news:

■ Chris Archer's \$11 million option for 2021 has been declined by the Pittsburgh Pi-

rates, and the 32-year-old right-hander became a free agent. Archer was a two-time All-Star with the Rays, then was traded to the Pirates on July 31, 2018.

■ Outfielder Nick Castellanos decided is keeping the remainder of his contract with the Cincinnati Reds that guarantees \$48 million for the next three seasons.