

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, November 7, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Biden wins 2020 presidential election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, positioning himself to lead a nation gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.

His victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed the processing of some ballots. Biden crossed 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania.

Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting.

Biden, 77, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. The strategy proved effective, resulting in pivotal victories in Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Pennsylvania, onetime Democratic bastions that had flipped to Trump in 2016.

Biden, in a statement, said he was humbled by the victory and it was time for the battered nation to set aside its differences.

"It's time for America to unite. And to heal," he said.

"With the campaign over, it's time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation," Biden said. "There's nothing we can't do if we do it together."

Biden was on track to win the national popular vote by more than 4 million, a margin that could grow as ballots continue to be counted.

Trump was not giving up.

Departing from longstanding democratic tradition and signaling a potentially turbulent transfer of power, he issued a combative statement while he was on his Virginia golf course. It said his campaign would take unspecified legal actions and he would "not rest until the American People have the honest vote count they deserve and that Democracy demands."

Trump has pointed to delays in processing the vote in some states to allege with no evidence that there was voter fraud and to argue that his rival was trying to seize power — an extraordinary charge by a sit-

'With the campaign over, it's time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation. There's nothing we can't do if we do it together.'

Joe Biden
president-elect

ting president trying to sow doubt about a bedrock democratic process.

Kamala Harris also made history as the first Black woman to become vice president, an achievement that comes as the U.S. faces a reckoning on racial justice. The California senator, who is also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government, four years after Trump defeated Hillary Clinton.

Trump is the first incumbent president to lose reelection since Republican George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Early Saturday he left the White House for his Virginia golf club dressed in golf shoes, a windbreaker and a white hat as the results gradually expanded Biden's lead in Pennsylvania.

Trump repeated his unsupported allegations of election fraud and illegal voting on Twitter.

In Wilmington, Del., near a stage that has stood empty since it was erected to celebrate a potential victory on Election Night, people cheered and pumped their fists as the news that the presidential race had been called for the state's former senator arrived on their cell phones.

On the nearby water, two men in a kayak yelled to a couple paddling by in the opposite direction, "Joe won! They called it!" as people on the shore whooped and hollered. Harris, in workout gear, was shown on video speaking to Biden on the phone, exuberantly telling the president-elect "We did it!" Biden was expected to take the stage for a drive-in rally after dark.

Across the country, there were parties

and prayer. In New York City, spontaneous block parties broke out. People ran out of their buildings, banging on pots. They danced and high-fived with strangers amid honking horns.

People streamed into Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, waving signs and taking cellphone pictures. In Lansing, Mich., Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter demonstrators filled the Capitol steps. The lyrics to "Amazing Grace" began to echo through the crowd, and Trump supporters laid their hands on a counter protester, and prayed.

Americans showed deep interest in the presidential race. A record 103 million people voted early this year, opting to avoid waiting in long lines at polling locations during a pandemic. With counting continuing in some states, Biden had already received more than 74 million votes, more than any presidential candidate before him.

Trump's refusal to concede has no legal implications. But it could add to the incoming administration's challenge of bringing the country together after a bitter election.

Throughout the campaign, Trump repeatedly refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, arguing without evidence that the election could be marred by fraud. The nation has a long history of presidential candidates peacefully accepting the outcome of elections, dating back to 1800, when John Adams conceded to his rival Thomas Jefferson.

It was Biden's native Pennsylvania that put him over the top, the state he invoked throughout the campaign to connect with working class voters. He also won Nevada on Saturday, pushing his total to 290 Electoral College votes.

More than 236,000 Americans have died during the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 10 million have been infected and millions of jobs have been lost. The final days of the campaign played out against the backdrop of a surge in confirmed cases in nearly every state, including battlegrounds such as Wisconsin that swung to Biden.

Trump's team filed a smattering of lawsuits in battleground states, some of which were immediately rebuffed by judges. His personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was holding a news conference in Philadelphia threatening more legal action when the race was called.

Vets upset by Trump mail-in votes stance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has held himself up as a champion of U.S. troops without rival. But with his presidency on the line, he cast suspicion on a tool of participatory democracy — the mail-in ballot — that has allowed U.S. military personnel to vote while serving far from home since the War of 1812.

The president shouted from Twitter to “STOP THE COUNT” and leveled unsubstantiated charges that “surprise ballot dumps” after election night were helping rival Democrat Joe Biden “steal” the election.

All the while, Trump insisted that military voters’ mail-in ballots should be counted. He even suggested on Friday — without presenting evidence — that some troops’ mail-in ballots have gone “missing.”

In his dizzying effort to sow doubt about the integrity of the vote, Trump has been all over the map on mail-in voting. The broadsides have unsettled

many veterans and former military brass who saw voting by mail as a tether to their civic duty when serving abroad.

“Officials at all levels including in the Congress need to say to the president ‘Sir, you need to exercise the same patience that the rest of the nation does,’” said retired Navy Adm. Steve Abbot, who later served as deputy homeland security adviser in the George W. Bush administration.

Abbot is a member of Count Every Hero, a coalition of top military brass advocating for service members’ votes to be protected and properly tallied. He added: “It doesn’t help this democracy for (Trump) to continue to sound this alarm. It’s inappropriate.”

It’s unclear exactly how many mail-in military ballots remained uncounted in the undecided battleground states. More than 250,000 U.S. service members cast mail-in ballots in 2016 and even more were expected to vote by mail this time.

Twenty-eight states and the

District of Columbia accept and count ballots from overseas service members that arrive after Election Day as long as they are postmarked before polls close.

As Biden neared the 270 electoral votes that enabled him to capture the presidency, Trump escalated his effort to sow doubt about mail-in votes that state officials were still counting.

“It’s amazing how those mail-in ballots are so one-sided, too,” Trump said in remarks at the White House on Thursday, hours after falsely stating in an all-caps tweet that any ballot received after Election Day won’t be counted. “I know that it’s supposed to be to the advantage of the Democrats, but in all cases, they’re so one-sided.”

In fact, the disparity is hardly surprising. Biden and other Democrats in the lead-up to Election Day urged supporters to vote early and by mail because of concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. Trump urged his supporters to vote

in person and he held the advantage in many states among those who cast their ballots in person on Election Day.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Thea McDonald said the president believes “there are and should be exceptions for our military members serving our country overseas” to ensure their ballots are counted. But McDonald questioned why Pennsylvania election officials should be counting mail-in ballots for “Democrats in Philadelphia who attempt to vote after Election Day.”

For some military families, Trump’s undercutting of late-arriving mail-in ballots reflects poorly on the commander in chief, even as his team has tried to clean up his broad attacks on mail-in voting.

“Everybody wants the right to participate in a democracy. That’s why people join the military. It’s something we believe in strongly,” said Tori Simenec, 28, of Minneapolis, a Marine 1st lieutenant who served from 2016 until August of 2020.

Perdue facing Ossoff in runoff for Ga. Senate seat

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republican U.S. Sen. David Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff will face off in a Jan. 5 runoff in Georgia for Perdue’s Senate seat, one of two high-profile contests in the state that could determine which party controls the upper chamber.

Libertarian candidate Shane Hazel was able to get enough votes so that neither Perdue nor Ossoff cleared the 50% threshold needed for an outright win.

Thousands of absentee ballots and in-person votes cast early needed to be counted after Election Night passed, forcing a long and tense wait before the race could be called.

Democrat Raphael Warnock and Sen. Kelly Loeffler, the Republican appointed last year after Sen. Johnny Isakson retired, will also compete in a runoff on the same day. The twin races in Georgia are likely to settle which party controls the Senate.

Nationally, the Senate stands split at 48-48. But Republicans lead uncalled races in Alaska and North Carolina, so the ultimate balance is likely to come down to what happens in the Georgia runoffs.

The race between Ossoff and Perdue, a close ally of Trump, has been characterized by sharp attack ads but relatively moderate political positions.

Both candidates steered toward the middle, vying for a state Trump won handily four years ago, but where swaths of suburbia have shown signs of disillusionment with the president.

Perdue has often focused his message on the economy, touting pre-pandemic job growth and his business experience before taking office. He has sought to cast Ossoff as backing a “radical socialist agenda.”

Ossoff, meanwhile, has hammered Perdue’s response to the coronavirus pandemic and decried Republican efforts to overturn the Affordable Care Act in the

middle of the public health crisis.

Democrats haven’t won a U.S. Senate race in Georgia in two decades, but Republican dominance has been slipping. Democrat Stacey Abrams narrowly lost the race for governor in 2018.

Perdue’s campaign is already portraying the runoff election as a last stand for Republicans to hold the Senate majority.

“The stakes in this election could not be higher: A vote for Jon Ossoff is a vote to hand power to Chuck Schumer and the radical Democrats in Washington,” Perdue campaign manager Ben Fry said in a statement Friday. “Georgians won’t let that happen.”

Ossoff spoke at a news conference in Atlanta on Friday morning, surrounded by supporters waving signs that read, “Vote your Ossoff.”

“We have all the momentum. We have all the energy. We’re on the right side of history,” Ossoff said.

Commissioner's home vandalized after vote

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — People in Portland threw flares and paint-filled balloons at the house of a city commissioner for Oregon's largest city after he cast the deciding vote against cutting \$18 million from city's police budget, authorities said.

The vandalism happened late Thursday night after 60 people protesting Commissioner Dan Ryan's vote marched to his home.

Some in the crowd smashed a window and broke planters, prompting police to declare a riot that allows officers to use more aggressive than normal police tactics. Two people were arrested.

It was the fourth time this week that Ryan's home was targeted, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. The three other times happened in the run-up to the divisive vote.

The crowd also attacked the police union headquarters, a frequent target of protest activity, and set the doors of City Hall on fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished

by a private security firm and is under investigation as an arson, authorities said.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who voted against the police budget cuts, strongly condemned the events and said violence should never be used to "silence the voices of others."

"Last night's criminal destruction and attack on Commissioner Ryan's home are reprehensible. Violence, criminal destruction and intimidation are unacceptable and will not be tolerated," Wheeler said Friday. "Those responsible must be found, investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

In a statement issued late Friday, Ryan said the protesters coming to his home used "the exact tactics they claim to be railing against — bullying and intimidation."

"I ask that they be accountable to one another — and think before they act," he wrote.

Protests over policing and racial injustice have roiled Portland for five months since the killing of George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer.

Protesters are demanding \$50 million in

cuts to the police budget — with the funds shifted to the Black community, assistance with food and housing during the pandemic and the homeless crisis. Some want the department defunded completely.

City Commissioners already slashed nearly \$16 million in June, eliminating funding for school resources officers, transit police and a gun violence reduction team. The department has also had its nearly \$230 million budget cut as part of an overall belt-tightening due to the pandemic.

Protesters' concerns about an overly aggressive police force, police accountability and police funding were at the heart of a close mayoral election.

Wheeler eked out a victory despite a strong challenge from a political newcomer, Sarah Iannarone.

She supported police cuts of \$50 million and drew on the energy of the near-nightly protests to significantly boost her double-digit deficit in the polls but lost with 41% of the vote compared to Wheeler's 46%.

Man shot by police in Wis. reaches plea deal in case

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A Black man paralyzed in a Wisconsin police shooting reached a plea deal Friday to settle a sexual assault case pending against him.

Online court records indicate prosecutors dropped a felony third-degree sexual assault charge and a misdemeanor criminal trespass charge against 29-year-old Jacob Blake. In exchange, Blake pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, and Judge Bruce Schroeder sentenced him to two years of probation.

Prosecutors in Kenosha accused Blake in July of breaking into a woman's home and sexually assaulting her. Officers tried to arrest him in connection with that case on Aug. 23, but Blake resisted, according to police.

Officer Rusten Sheskey, who is white, ended up shooting him seven times in the back as he tried to duck into his SUV, cellphone video from a neighbor shows.

Sheskey's lawyer contends that Sheskey believed Blake was trying to kidnap one of his own children and Blake turned toward him with a knife.

The shooting left Blake paralyzed from the waist down and sparked several nights of protests in Kenosha that turned violent at times. Prosecutors have charged Kyle Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old from Antioch, Ill., with fatally shooting two men and wounding a third during one of the demonstrations.

Prosecutor: Police shooting of naked man 'justified'

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The fatal police shooting of an unarmed Black man who ran onto a highway during a mental health crisis was justified, a Virginia prosecutor said Friday.

The finding by Commonwealth's Attorney Colette McEachin mirrors an earlier finding by her predecessor, former Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Herring. McEachin said in a 10-page report released Friday that the officer's use of deadly force on Marcus-David Peters was a "reasonable response" to the danger posed by Peters.

Peters was a 24-year-old high school bi-

ology teacher when he was shot by a Richmond police officer on May 14, 2018.

Police said Peters struck several vehicles with his car, then crashed into brush in a grassy area next to a highway ramp. Body camera video showed Peters climb out of his car — naked — and run into rush hour traffic on Interstate 95. He laid down on the highway, rolled around and flailed his arms and legs.

The officer, who was also Black, pointed a stun gun at Peters, who then ran toward the officer while shouting and threatening to kill him. The officer deployed the stun gun, which appeared to have no effect, then shot Peters with his service weapon.

Peters died later at a hospital.

Three months later, Herring cleared the officer of any wrongdoing, finding that a reasonable officer in those circumstances would have believed Peters was capable of overcoming him and taking control of his gun.

At the urging of Peters' family and police reform advocates, McEachin agreed to review the case. She reached a similar conclusion, finding that "the officer's ultimate decision to use lethal force was a reasonable response to the imminent danger presented to himself and the public by Mr. Peters' continued violent behavior due to his mental deterioration."

White House chief of staff tests positive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows has been diagnosed with the coronavirus as the nation sets daily records for confirmed cases for the pandemic.

Two senior administration officials confirmed Friday that Meadows had tested positive for the virus, which has killed more than 236,000 Americans so far this year. They offered no details on when the chief of staff came down with the virus or his current condition. His diagnosis was first reported by Bloomberg News.

One administration official said several other staffers had tested positive as well.

Meadows traveled with Trump in the run-up to Election Day and last appeared in public early Wednesday morning without a mask as Trump falsely declared victory in the vote count.

It marked the latest case of the virus in the West Wing, coming not even two weeks after Marc Short, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, and other aides tested positive for the virus. Trump, first lady Melania Trump, and at least two dozen others tested positive for the virus in early October, after Trump held large gatherings of people not wearing face-masks, including the ceremony announcing the nomination of now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

COVID-19 cases in the U.S. have increased more than 50% in the past two weeks.

Alaska

JUNEAU — Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, plans to boost enforcement of an expanded mask mandate and restrict gathering sizes in a bid to curb coronavirus cases, officials said Friday.

The changes take effect Monday, with masks to be worn, with a few exceptions, in indoor public settings or communal areas and outdoors when distancing from non-household members is not possible.

In some cases, such as for individuals with disabilities who cannot tolerate a mask, face shields will be allowed unless wearing one would be impossible, the order states.

Colorado

DENVER — Denver officials are urging residents to stay home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in an effort to stem the tide of coronavirus cases, which could overwhelm area hospitals by the end of the year.

Mayor Michael Hancock said during a virtual news conference Friday that the "Home by 10 Order," which will last for at least 30 days, is necessary to avoid another citywide stay-at-home order. He also urged residents not to gather or mix with other households.

The mayor shied away from calling the order a curfew because he said enforcement would only target the most egregious violations, not, for instance, someone walking their dog or going for a run after 10 p.m.

Kansas

MISSION — Kansas added a record-setting 5,418 new coronavirus cases Friday as hospitals warned that staffing was being seriously strained and the state's top public health official said many local officials "haven't done anything" to check the surge.

The increases in confirmed and probable cases brought the state's total to 97,633, a 5.9% increase from Wednesday. With the influx, the seven-day daily rolling average rose to 1,779 cases, which is almost three times as high as it was just a month ago, data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment shows.

The state also added 79 COVID-19 fatalities Friday to bring the total to 1,166. Deaths have more than doubled since mid-September.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — State prison officials have ordered a lockdown at a medium-security facility in northern Nevada after 93 inmates and seven staff members tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Nevada Department of Corrections said Friday that additional sanitation measures have been deployed, and all meals are being delivered to individual units during the lockdown at the Warm Springs Correctional Center in Carson City.

Employees routinely are tested for COVID-19 every two weeks and offenders every three weeks, but more frequently when necessary, Department Director Charles Daniels said. All staff are screened for symptoms and temperatures taken before entering the facility, and are required to wear masks at all times.

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New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico legislators are grappling with the public health risks of convening their next session in January amid surging statewide rates of coronavirus infections and deaths.

A panel of leading legislators Friday unveiled a proposal to move committee meetings to the downtown Santa Fe convention center to provide more spacious rooms for in-person committee hearings.

Democratic House speaker Brian Egolf described a possible hybrid attendance model for the upcoming 60-day session that would close off public access to the Statehouse for floor debates and votes — but allow public attendance and comment at committee meetings in the convention center. A new coronavirus testing regimen for lawmakers and staff also is under consideration.

New York

ALBANY — Restrictions in some New York City pandemic hotspots will be rolled back, even as the state prepares to combat virus flare-ups upstate, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday.

The governor said he's considering imposing additional social distancing restrictions

in "microcluster" zones in the Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse areas because of rising infection rates.

The governor also said the National Guard will increase its presence at airports to help make sure travelers from non-neighboring states can provide proof of a negative coronavirus test.

Oregon

SALEM — Following a record-breaking day of COVID-19 cases in Oregon, officials on Friday announced new restrictions that will be implemented in at least five of the state's counties as part of a two-week pause on social activities.

The updated safety measures, which begin Wednesday, include halting visitations to long-term care facilities, reducing the capacity of indoor dining at restaurants to 50 people, encouraging all business to mandate work from home and urging Oregonians not to gather with people who do not live in their household, but if they do, to limit it to six people.

Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's largest teachers union called for the governor to move all public secondary schools in high coronavirus transmission areas to remote learning on Friday as the state reported a single-day record of 17 COVID-19 deaths.

The Utah Education Association also called for Republican Gov. Gary Herbert to suspend all extracurricular activities that can't comply with social distancing guidelines in high transmission areas from the Thanksgiving holiday through-out winter break.

"We are now seeing multiple schools repeatedly shift back and forth from in-person to at-home learning due to outbreaks," the union wrote in a statement. "This cycle is obviously not helping to control the virus spread and, as educators, we can unequivocally state the continual interruptions are not in the best interest of student learning."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Construction worker pinned under beam dies

NJ EAST HANOVER— A construction worker was killed when he got trapped under a large steel beam at a site in northern New Jersey, authorities said.

Orlando Rivas, 45, of Newark, was working in East Hanover when he became pinned beneath the beam. He was pronounced dead at the scene a short time later.

Authorities have not disclosed further details about the incident or how it occurred, citing the ongoing investigation, but have said the death appears to have been an accident.

3 injured after 3 homes ignited by gas explosion

NY MEADOWMERE PARK — Two firefighters and a resident were injured when three Long Island houses were set ablaze by a gas explosion, fire officials said.

The explosion destroyed three homes in Meadowmere Park in Nassau County, Nassau County Assistant Chief Michael Uttaro said. The explosion occurred in one house and the resulting fire also destroyed the two neighboring homes.

Two firefighters seriously injured when a wall collapsed were treated and released from a local hospital, and a homeowner who suffered severe burns was in critical condition in the intensive care unit at Nassau University Medical Center, Uttaro said.

Abducted child rescued during traffic stop

NE NORTHPLATTE— A child who was abducted after an assault in Colorado was rescued unharmed during

a traffic stop in Nebraska, authorities said.

The Nebraska State Patrol said in a news release that it received a report at that a man had assaulted a woman in Sedgwick County, Colo., and then drove off in her vehicle with her child still inside.

Troopers located the vehicle, a Mazda 3, less than an hour later near North Platte, and pulled it over. The child was found inside the car and later reunited with family.

The driver, George Williamson, 31, of North Platte was arrested on Colorado warrants for kidnapping and assault and a Nebraska warrant for failure to appear.

Man bites mom's nose, beats her with kettle

OH FAIRVIEW— A Fairview man who bit off his mother's nose and beat her with a tea kettle during an argument in their home was charged with felonious assault, authorities said.

According to authorities, Sean Ohman, 36, of Fairview, reported the attack. Responding officers found the woman in the home and determined she had been choked and beaten. Her name has not been released.

Authorities have not said what spurred the attack or if anyone else was in the residence when it occurred.

Man on state's most wanted list injures feds

TN JACKSON — Federal authorities said a Tennessee man was charged with shooting two members of a fugitive task force during an arrest attempt.

Bobby Joe Claybrook, 39, was charged with using a firearm during an assault on a fed-

eral officer, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Two agents with the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Task Force were shot as they approached a home in Jackson to serve a warrant on Claybrook, authorities said. Claybrook, of Dyersburg, had been placed on the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Top Ten Most Wanted list in August on charges including attempted second degree murder.

Claybrook barricaded himself in the home, but police negotiators persuaded him to come out after four hours and he was arrested, the U.S. Marshals Service said in a statement.

Man admits defrauding 2 dozen elderly of \$1M

MD BALTIMORE — A Florida man pleaded guilty to a charge that he defrauded more than two dozen elderly people out of nearly \$1 million.

David Green, 25, of Miami Gardens, duped victims into believing that a relative, usually a grandchild, needed money for bail, legal fees or other expenses, according to federal prosecutors in Maryland.

Co-defendant McArnold Charlemagne, 33, of Miramar, Fla., pleaded guilty to the same charge. Both men are scheduled to be sentenced March 26.

Green was arrested in March 2019 by police in Delaware's New Castle County while trying to retrieve a package that a victim sent to a location in Newark, Del.

Green's and Charlemagne's co-conspirators posed as police officers, lawyers and other individuals to persuade at least 28 victims to send money to vacant homes, U.S. Attorney Robert Hur's office said in a news release.

Ex-police chief given jail for stealing evidence

SC MANNING — A former police chief in South Carolina will spend a year in federal prison after pleading guilty to stealing nearly \$80,000 in seized cash from a traffic stop in 2015.

A federal judge sentenced Gary Blair Shaffer, former chief of the Manning Police Department, to prison time and a year of court-ordered supervision, U.S. Attorney Peter McCoy announced.

The money seized at the traffic stop was placed in an evidence room that Shaffer had access to. Authorities said Shaffer took the cash from the evidence room and, over the following months, made large cash deposits totaling \$78,514 into his personal banking account.

Firefighter critical after hose knocks him over

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco firefighter was critically injured while fighting a fire in a high-rise building, authorities said.

Matt Vann, a six-year veteran, was hit by a hose line, knocked over and struck his head while on the street responding to a fire on the 19th floor of a building, fire officials said.

Vann was unconscious and stopped breathing. He was listed in critical condition at San Francisco General Hospital, Fire Department Lt. Jonathan Baxter said.

Video showed a hose tangled under a bus, KGO-TV reported.

A Muni bus was travelling through the route at the time of the accident and authorities were investigating whether it may have struck the hose.

From wire reports

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Johnson set to call it career in NASCAR

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Jimmie Johnson was the first one down the stairs in a diving competition at Tony Stewart's birthday party. He playfully tossed mini hamburgers across a suite Denny Hamlin had rented in Las Vegas and later wrestled Chad Knaus on the floor of the same casino.

The two revelers were capping a raucous night of celebrating yet another title when one of their jumbo championship rings slipped away and rolled across the casino. Another time, Johnson broke his wrist surfing atop a moving golf cart at his foundation's tournament. He had Snoop Dogg play at his seventh championship party.

Those are just a sampling of the tales about Johnson, who is retiring from full-time NASCAR competition in Sunday's season finale at Phoenix Raceway. He leaves the sport as a seven-time champion ranked sixth on the all-time wins list with 83.

"He's as close to perfect as you can get," team owner Rick Hendrick said Friday, hours after Johnson told a story about the late Ricky Hendrick that his father had never heard before. The story was not suitable for a family audience so Hendrick

chose not to share it.

Johnson's two decades as driver of the No. 48 established him as the best of his generation — he won five consecutive titles during a jaw-dropping run of 35 victories from 2006-2010. That run made him the only race car driver to win The Associated Press' Male Athlete of the Year award.

His seven championships are tied with Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt. Kevin Harvick with 58 victories is the closest active driver to Johnson's win total.

The reign of supremacy from Johnson and Knaus, his longtime crew chief, frustrated NASCAR fans, many of whom argued Johnson was so boring they just couldn't watch anymore.

"Jimmie did it without a lot of fanfare. He could have been cocky. He could have been challenging other drivers in the media, whatever. But he wasn't that way," Hendrick said. "I think the success he had got to be almost so routine that people just didn't appreciate the talent."

All that winning for the No. 48 perhaps was a little tired.

Yet Johnson, the renaissance man, is far from boring.

He's generous and genuine, a true professional who glides

seamlessly from meetings with executives to mingling with fans and partying with world-famous friends and workout partners. The 45-year-old Californian considers Charlotte, N.C., his home, but Johnson and his family have a place in Aspen, Colo., where he fly fishes, skis and rides dirt bikes with his two daughters.

He's donated more than \$12 million to children's educational causes, and his wife owns a respected art gallery in Charlotte. His family is close and well-traveled and after 19 years driving for Hendrick Motorsports, Johnson is ready to do other things.

First on his list is a mind-blowing move to IndyCar, where he plans to race 14 events on road and street courses next season. He'll be a 45-year-old rookie when he fulfills his childhood dream of hurtling an open wheel car through the streets of Long Beach, California.

Johnson is already immersed in this next venture: he sold the sponsorship to Carvana himself and spent Monday of his last week as a NASCAR driver testing with Chip Ganassi Racing in Alabama. He may enter sports car races, domestically or even internationally, run marathons or triathlons, perhaps enter some cycling

competitions.

He doesn't know what he'll do when his schedule is freed up for the first time in two decades, just that his competitive urge will need to be fulfilled. Johnson has had a rough run since his final title in 2016; his last victory was in 2017 and he failed to make the playoffs in his final season in part because he missed the first of 685 Cup races when he tested positive for COVID-19 in June.

Some thought he'd come back in 2021 because the pandemic spoiled any farewell tour and because NASCAR has adjusted its scheduling to one-day events instead of three-day weekend shows.

Johnson indeed wishes he'd been able to visit with fans this final season but is ready to go.

"I feel good and I am so excited to finish the season, to be an athlete that can choose when their final season is going to take place," Johnson said. "I know how fortunate I am to be in that place. The year has not turned out how I wanted, but I am very excited to reach the end of this chapter of my life."

"I'm in a celebratory place," he said. "I've told the world it's happening and I feel good about it."

Creed snatches Truck Series title in overtime of finale

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Sheldon Creed gambled on new tires for a two-lap overtime and snatched the Truck Series championship away from teammate Brett Moffitt.

Moffitt was cruising to his second title in three years when a spin brought out a caution Friday night at Phoenix Raceway. Creed was one of 14 drivers to pit for fresh tires, restarted eighth and figured he'd watch Moffitt win the title for the team.

But Moffitt was a sitting duck as the leader on four old tires. He was passed immediately on the restart and faded all the

way to 10th as the field cruised past.

Creed dashed to the lead right before taking the white flag and led the final overtime lap for the first Truck Series championship of his career.

"I pride myself on my restarts. We just needed a good restart right there," Creed said. "I just went as hard as I could. I knew if I did, I'd have a shot."

GMS Racing had Creed, Moffitt and rookie Zane Smith all in the four-driver finale and Creed helped Chevrolet open championship weekend with its first trophy. After being locked out of the Cup Series championship round since 2016, Chevy

has strong contenders this year in all three of NASCAR's national series. Chase Elliott races Sunday for the Cup.

The race was atypically clean for the rowdy Truck Series, which has been a demolition derby during the playoffs. But the finale was trouble-free until Dawson Cram was spun to bring out the late caution and force extra laps.

Creed, an X-Games gold medalist and two-time Stadium Super Trucks Series champion, won for a Truck Series-best fifth time.

Moffitt at least twice in his post-race comments was critical of race strategy and not pit-

ting before overtime, a pointed shot at crew chief Chad Norris. Moffitt led a race-high 78 laps and finished 10th.

"I don't have much good to say. We finally hit the setup right and can't call a race to save our lives," Moffitt fumed. "It's cost us multiple times this year and now it's cost us a championship."

Grant Enfinger finished 13th in a Ford for ThorSport Racing. He was the only driver in the final four not representing GMS. ThorSport and GMS field a combined nine trucks in the series where young drivers are trying to launch a national-level NASCAR career.

King, No. 11 Miami rally past NC State

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — When No. 11 Miami needed to make plays, D'Eriq King said he had faith in his teammates.

In turn, the Hurricanes figured they had the right guy at quarterback.

King threw five touchdown passes, the last a go-ahead 54-yard catch-and-run play with Michael Harley with 2:43 left, and Miami rallied to beat North Carolina State 44-41 on Friday night.

"I had no doubt we could go down there (and score)," King said. "I just trust those guys. Everybody out there... It's just about winning games. That's all I care about."

The Houston transfer was 31-for-41 for 430 yards and ran for a game-high 105 yards on 15 carries.

"He came ready to play," Miami tight end Will Mallory said. "He came ready to lead us and that's exactly what he did."

Miami (6-1, 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) scored the final 13 points to win its third game in a row and match last season's victory total under second-year

coach Manny Diaz.

"The guys believed in each other and they did what they needed to do to get it done," Diaz said. "We've got guys who fight for each other. ... We never expected this game to be easy."

King ended up with season-high totals through the air and on the ground.

"He's that guy, a great leader," Harley said. "He's that guy Miami needed."

Harley also had a 20-yard TD catch in the second quarter. He finished with 153 yards on eight receptions.

Zonovan Knight had a 100-yard kickoff return to put NC State (4-3, 4-3) on top in the third quarter. Bailey Hockman was 19-for-28 for 248 yards and two touchdowns for the Wolfpack. He had a pass intercepted by DJ Ivey after Miami's final touchdown.

"They made a big play they needed to and we didn't," NC State coach Dave Doeren said. "Just couldn't put them away. They made one more play than we did at the end."

Knight also had a 1-yard TD run in the third quarter for his

first touchdown.

NC State padded its lead to 41-31 on Christopher Dunn's 53-yard field goal on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Josh Borregales kicked three field goals, connecting from 38 and 22 yards in the fourth quarter. The latter came with 6:12 remaining after the Hurricanes were within a half-yard of the end zone before a fourth-down penalty.

King said Diaz made the right decision.

"It made sense to kick the field goal," he said. "It shows what kind of coach he is. He trusted the defense."

Earlier, Hockman handed off to receiver Thayer Thomas and then received the ball back and ran behind a convoy of blockers for what was ruled a 31-yard touchdown pass play on the game's opening possession. It was the first touchdown reception for a Wolfpack quarterback since Philip Rivers in 2000.

The Hurricanes, coming off a 19-14 home victory over Virginia, had a 21-14 lead less than 16½ minutes into the game. NC State led at halftime on the

strength of Hockman's 9-yard touchdown pass to Cary Angeline with 2:49 left.

Miami was missing 11 players, including starting left tackle John Campbell Jr. and starting tight end Brevin Jordan.

The takeaway: Miami: The Hurricanes outscored their first six opponents by a combined margin of 57-23 in the second quarter. But NC State's 10-7 edge produced a 24-21 lead, marking only the second halftime deficit of the season for the Hurricanes.

NC State: Angeline, a red-shirt senior, has caught at least one touchdown pass in five of the Wolfpack's games. NC State won the other four games.

Poll implications: Miami could move back into the Top 10 after four weeks outside of that territory.

With a victory, NC State would have been a candidate to climb back into the rankings. The Wolfpack spent one week in the Top 25 following a three-game winning streak before dropping out with a loss to then-No. 14 North Carolina.

No. 9 BYU makes statement by crushing Boise State

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — BYU hasn't had many chances this season to prove that it's deserving of its lofty No. 9 ranking. On Friday night, the Cougars took full advantage of their first game against a ranked team.

And it was nothing short of impressive.

Zach Wilson threw for 359 yards and two touchdowns and Tyler Allgeier rushed for 123 yards and a pair of scores as BYU routed No. 21 Boise State 51-17.

BYU (8-0), which beat Boise State on the road for the first time in six tries, is off to its best start since 2001 when the Cougars started 12-0. It's also the first time in school history that BYU has scored 50 points or more against a ranked

opponent.

Wilson, who originally committed to Boise State before signing with BYU, completed 21 of 27 passes and threw TDs of 5 and 20 yards. He also found the end zone on a 4-yard run.

The projected first-round NFL Draft pick said he doesn't begrudge anyone for questioning how good a team BYU is during these unprecedented times.

"People still doubted us, but I don't blame them for that," Wilson said. "It's hard to tell how good we are with how our season has switched up, but each week is an opportunity for us to prove ourselves. (This win) doesn't mean anything unless we keep winning."

Meanwhile, Boise State (2-1) suffered its worst loss since a 64-19 rout by rival Idaho in

1996, the Broncos' first year as an FBS program. Boise State lost the 1997 season opener to Cal State Northridge by 40 at home but that game was later forfeited to the Broncos.

"It's embarrassing," Boise State linebacker Riley Wimpey said of the loss. "And we need to figure it out so that never happens again."

The game appeared like it might turn into a shootout early with both teams trading scores in the first quarter. But BYU took control after Boise State quarterback Jack Sears left with what appeared to be a concussion in the first quarter and never returned. The Broncos' offense never returned, either, as BYU took control in the third quarter.

"The first half wasn't our best," BYU coach Kalani Si-

take said. "When I walked into the locker room, there were already conversations going on. Leaders were already talking. I didn't have to say much. The truth is, the players had the answers for themselves. They knew we weren't playing to our standards and they corrected it."

The correction was to the tune of 21 points, staking the Cougars to a 38-3 lead entering the fourth quarter.

"They came out and they put on a show," Boise State receiver Khalil Shakir said. "And the thing that hurts the most is that it was on our 'Blue' and, you know, we have that, 'Protect the Blue' mentality. We didn't do what we wanted to do tonight and we just have to step up as a whole."

No NFL games postponed this week

Associated Press

All NFL games are on for this weekend while teams deal with COVID-19 issues.

Depending on their situations, teams were either steering clear of or returning to their facilities Friday, one day after the Packers beat the 49ers even though both clubs were missing key players due to coronavirus infections or exposure.

The Cincinnati Bengals kept players away from their training facility, while tackle Fred Johnson and defensive back Trae Waynes were placed on the COVID-19 list. Players have not been in the facility since Wednesday and will not return until next week because they are on a bye, though players had to remain in Cincinnati to be tested for the coronavirus daily.

The Atlanta Falcons canceled practice and worked virtually after a member of the football staff tested positive. The Falcons said the move was “out of an abundance of caution” while contact tracing is used to determine if anyone else might have been exposed.

Atlanta hosts Denver on Sunday.

“The whole reason we’re doing it is to get guys to the game,” coach Raheem Morris said. “We want to make sure we go through all the precautionary measures to play the game. Everybody wants to play the game.”

A Miami Dolphins assistant coach, also unidentified, tested positive for COVID-19 and was quarantined. It was the first coronavirus case involving the Dolphins since Aug. 19, but their regular-season schedule was changed because of outbreaks involving other teams.

Receiver Lynn Bowden Jr. went on the reserve/COVID-19 list Friday.

The Dolphins are scheduled to play Sunday at Arizona.

The Packers, who won 34-17 Thursday night at the 49ers, placed linebacker Krys Barnes and reserve quarterback Jordan Love on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

Barnes played in the victory and the Packers announced in the first half he had left with a calf injury.

The 49ers had four players

on the reserve/COVID-19 list for Thursday night’s game: Receivers Brandon Aiyuk, Kendrick Bourne and Deebo Samuel, and tackle Trent Williams. All four were activated from the list Friday after Bourne had a second straight negative test.

The Chicago Bears placed center Cody Whitehair on the COVID-19 list and activated starting right guard Germain Ifedi from it on Friday. Ifedi was placed on the list along with backup offensive tackle Jason Spriggs on Tuesday. Coach Matt Nagy said this week that Spriggs tested positive for the coronavirus and Ifedi was put on the list because of a close contact.

The Bears canceled practice and closed their facility Thursday after a positive test. The team was cleared that night by the NFL to practice Friday.

Chicago plays at Tennessee on Sunday.

The Detroit Lions had a staff member test positive for COVID-19 and the team entered the league’s intensive protocol. The unidentified staffer immediately self-quarantined and had not been in the Lions’

practice facility for the last 48 hours.

The Houston Texans returned to their facility a day after it was closed following a positive COVID-19 test by a player. Linebacker Jacob Martin’s positive test on Wednesday night forced the closure of the facility Thursday. Linebackers Whitney Mercilus and Dylan Cole will also miss Sunday’s game at Jacksonville after the NFL determined they had been in close contact with Martin.

The league has been busy handing out discipline to teams violating COVID-19 protocols.

On Friday, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin was fined \$100,000 and the club \$250,000 because coaches improperly wore facial coverings last Sunday, a person with knowledge of the fines told The Associated Press.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the fines have not been announced, said Tomlin was among the coaches cited for “not wearing face coverings at all times on the sidelines” during the victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

Essential Quality surges to Breeders’ Cup Juvenile win

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Initially out of the picture, Essential Quality regrouped for a signature win that may set him up for a big 2021.

Essential Quality took charge in the stretch to overtake 94-1 long shot Hot Rod Charlie and win Friday’s \$2 million Breeders’ Cup Juvenile by three-quarters of a length on the first day of the season-ending world championships at Keeneland.

Hot Rod Charlie and 4-5 favorite Jackie’s Warrior dueled through the final turn before Essential Quality, initially off the pace after an early bump, recovered and emerged from a four-wide pack. The colt held on at the wire as Keepmeinmind, a 30-1 long shot, made a late

charge. Essential Quality improved to 3-0 and established himself as a possible contender in next year’s Kentucky Derby.

Jockey Luis Saez earned his first Breeders’ Cup win and was grateful for his mount.

“To be here and to have it with this horse, it’s very special,” he said. “First time that I ride him, I knew he was going to be a super horse.”

Essential Quality, who won the Grade 1 Breeders Futurity at Keeneland last month, could be in the discussion as top 2-year-old colt. Trainer Brad Cox, a Louisville native, wasn’t ready to look ahead to next May but didn’t dismiss the thought, either.

“Well, sure. It’s the obvious thought or dream, I guess

you would say,” said Cox, who also won the preceding Juvenile Fillies Turf with Aunt Pearl. “Let the dust settle, see how he comes out of the race. We’ll map out a plan this winter. But, very excited about this horse next year, his 3-year-old campaign.”

Essential Quality covered 1¹/₁₆ miles in 1:42.09 and paid \$9.40, \$6.20 and \$4.40.

Hot Rod Charlie returned \$51.60 and \$24 while Keepmeinmind paid \$11.20 to show. Jackie’s Warrior faded to fourth.

Two races earlier, Vequist made her case as a Kentucky Oaks contender with a two-length victory in the \$2 million Juvenile Fillies.

With Joel Rosario aboard,

the daughter of 2016 Kentucky Derby winner and 2015 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile champ Nyquist surged past pacesetter Dayoutoftheoffice in the stretch and rode the rail to her second win. It marked the third consecutive year a horse from the Parx racetrack/casino outside Philadelphia won a Breeders’ Cup race.

“To be able to compete against those kind of horses is really a good thing and felt really good,” trainer Butch Reid said.

The races highlighted the first of two days of the \$31 million event at Keeneland, which is hosting for the second time and first since 2015. It’s being held without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic.