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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Biden: 'Let's give each other a chance'

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Joe Biden used his first national address as president-elect to vow to heal a deeply divided nation, declaring it was time to “let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end” and reaching out to the millions of people who voted against him to say, “Let’s give each other a chance.”

His calls for reconciliation at a Saturday evening victory celebration came even as President Donald Trump continued to argue that the election had been stolen from him, an indication that the divisive politics that have gripped the U.S. over the past four years are far from over.

It also suggested that even as Biden seeks to build out a government during his transition

to the presidency, the president has little interest in helping him do so.

“For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment,” Biden said during a drive-in event in Wilmington, Del. “It’s time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again.”

Biden heads into his first full day as president-elect on Sunday with key staffing decisions to make as the coronavirus rages. The always-frenzied 10-week transition period before Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 already has been shortened by the extra time it took to determine the winner of Tuesday’s election.

The second Catholic to be elected president, Biden attended church Sunday at St. Jo-

seph on the Brandywine near his home in Wilmington, as he does nearly every week. He began Election Day with a visit to the church and the grave of his son, Beau, a former Delaware attorney general who died of brain cancer in 2015.

His top priority in the transition is expected to be quickly naming a chief of staff. Biden suggested during the campaign that his first call after being elected would be to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, but his advisers have not said whether the two have spoken yet.

Biden said Saturday that he would announce a task force of scientists and experts Monday to develop a “blueprint” to begin beating back the virus by the time he assumes the presidency. He said his plan would be “built on bedrock science” and

“constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern.” A former surgeon general, Vivek Murthy, and a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, David Kessler, will lead the task force.

This week, Biden will launch his agency review teams — the group of transition staffers that have access to key agencies in the current administration to smooth the transfer of power. The teams will collect and review information such as budgetary and staffing decisions, pending regulations and other work in progress from current staff at the departments to help Biden’s team prepare to transition.

Biden senior adviser Ted Kaufman said the transition team will focus on the “nuts and bolts” of building the new administration in coming days.

PACAF leaders urge readiness against China

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. troops must be ready for conflict with China as tensions between the two nations simmer, Pacific Air Forces’ leaders said Friday during a Facebook Live video call to airmen in Japan.

Beijing, with its “maligned and coercive activity that’s frequently not in accordance with international law,” is the greatest challenge facing the region, PACAF commander Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach said on the call.

“We’ve got to challenge and compete with them in accordance with the national (defense) strategy, but we also have to be ready in the event we get called to go fight tonight,” he said.

China’s “disturbing” behavior, Wilsbach said, includes its “crackdown on the democratic process” in Hong Kong that sparked unrest last year, its recent border clashes

with India and its militarization and island-building in the South China Sea.

Beijing believes it has a historic right to the region, pointing to early maps China published that claim the South and East China Seas as its own. However, a United Nations panel in 2016 rejected these claims in a ruling in a case brought by the Philippines.

“[They are] making new islands in the South China Sea and saying that it’s always been that way and it’s Chinese territory — and it hasn’t,” Wilsbach said. “That’s revisionist history.”

Wilsbach criticized China for “threatening action” when U.S. military ships and aircraft approach “not even close to the 12-mile territory of China,” referring to the distance from coastlines that makes up a nation’s territorial waters under international maritime law.

“All that maligned activity is causing a lot of consternation with us and with our allies and partners in the region because

we ... are looking for a free and open Indo-Pacific, which includes open commerce, open seas [and] open skies to be used in accordance with international law,” Wilsbach said.

U.S. allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region are key to its advantage, Wilsbach said. Regular training and work with other nations’ militaries are done “so that eventually we can become interoperable and maybe even integrated.”

The U.S. military uses the term “interoperability” to describe the ability of a country’s armed forces to use another country’s training methods and military equipment. Frequent exercises with Japan’s Self-Defense Forces and Australia’s navy are examples of interoperability.

“That’s something that our adversary really has to calculate through if they want to have a conflict with us,” Wilsbach said on the call. “In short, it becomes a deterrent value before the fight starts.”

New Army museum opens in Virginia

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Seventy life-like figures in uniform and bearing arms portray American soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the Afghanistan War are spread throughout the National Museum of the United States Army, set to open to the public on Veterans Day.

The figures form centerpieces for the museum's six main galleries that reflect the Army's history from its militia roots in the early 1600s through its roles in ongoing wars in the Middle East, museum officials said Thursday. The chronologically arranged galleries feature unique artifacts, short vignettes about soldiers' personal experiences at war and interactive displays that explain things like the music soldiers listened to in the era and the food they ate.

Tammy Call, the museum's director, said it was important that visitors experience the chronological history of the Army, to see how the service and warfare has changed over time. But, more than anything else, she said she hoped visitors would find a connection with the unique stories of individual soldiers displayed throughout the museum.

"My greatest desire is that an individual

visiting here, that doesn't have a connection with the Army, or that does, that they walk away with knowledge of the American soldier," Call said. "That they see themselves reflected in our soldiers and that there's that understanding that our American soldiers and members of our Army are American citizens."

The 185,000-square-foot museum has been a longtime coming. The Army Historical Foundation has worked for more than a decade to build the service's first comprehensive museum. It will open on Veterans Day, in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, just more than three years after the Army broke ground.

The pandemic delayed the opening by about five months, Call said. When it opens Nov. 11, visitors must reserve free tickets online [at theNMUSA.org] and adhere to certain restrictions, like wearing a face-covering and social distancing. The museum is also providing styluses to allow visitors to work the plethora of touchscreens throughout the exhibits.

Officials wanted visitors to experience what soldiering was like for troops on the ground throughout the Army's history. A video inside the museum's Army Theater brings them into the action in Belgium

during World War II, in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam and the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan, placing them into the heart of the battles with a 300-degree screen. The theater shakes as bomb blasts go off and machine gun fire cuts through the air.

The exhibits include six dedicated to combat, one that examines the connection between the Army and American society, one that shares the history of the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, and a virtual reality gallery where visitors can step into a World War II tank simulator, fly in virtual historic aircraft and even test their marksmanship skills.

Curators said the museum would rotate displays of 1,389 artifacts, most of which the Army has held for years but never before shared with the public. And more items are headed to the museum in the near future, including some from as recent as this year, Call said.

The museum plans to add items from soldiers who were at Iraq's al Asad Air Base during the Jan. 8 ballistic missile attack by Iran in retaliation for the United States' drone strike that killed their top military figure, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Marine officer escapes punishment for theft

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

A Marine lieutenant colonel found guilty of stealing hundreds of dollars in merchandise from a base exchange in South Korea has escaped punishment, according to a published report.

Lt. Col. Samuel K. Lee, 47, was convicted Sept. 11 at Camp Foster, Okinawa, of two counts of violating Article 121 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or larceny of non-military property valued at \$1,000 or less, the military news website Task & Purpose reported Thursday, citing court records.

Lee, a logistics officer for Marine Forces Korea, stole a 4K ultra high definition wire-free security camera system,

Apple AirPods with a wireless charging system, Bose noise-canceling headphones and Estee Lauder ReNUTRIV Ultimate Diamond energy cream between Nov. 1, 2019, and March 8, 2020, according to the report, which cited Marine officials with knowledge of the charges.

A conviction for theft at or under \$1,000 could bring a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for one year, according to the manual on courts-martial.

However, the judge in the case "did not impose punishment," according to the Corps' report on court-martial dispositions for September, "consistent with the plea agreement."

Lee remains on active duty and is stationed at Marine

Corps Forces Korea, spokesman Capt. Joseph Butterfield wrote in an email Thursday to Stars and Stripes.

A legal scholar contacted by Stars and Stripes said Lee escaping punishment is out of the ordinary.

"It is unusual in my mind that a convening authority would protect an officer from punishment under these circumstances," Crista Kraics, a retired Marine Corps judge advocate, told Stars and Stripes on Thursday by email.

Lee, a former Combat Logistics Battalion 5 commander, has been in the Marines for more than 23 years, Task & Purpose reported. He earns approximately \$10,000 per month, according to military pay scales posted to the Defense Finance Accounting Service website.

Kraics said lower enlisted Marines typically receive harsher punishments than the one rendered in the Lee case.

"An enlisted Marine at Special Court Martial, even under a pretrial agreement, would likely receive a harsher punishment and fewer agreed-upon protections for this level of larceny," she said.

Decisions like the one in the Lee case "absolutely" erode morale, Kraics said.

"When senior officers commit misconduct, the first question that springs to mind is how many junior Marines has this officer been responsible for punishing for equal or lesser crimes," she said. "Officers should be held to the highest of standards, as we learn from commissioning and throughout our career."

VP-elect Harris pays tribute to Black women

Associated Press

Vice president-elect Kamala Harris on Saturday paid tribute to the women, particularly Black women, whose shoulders she stands on as she shatters barriers that have kept mostly white men entrenched at the highest levels of American politics for more than two centuries.

“Tonight, I reflect on their struggle, their determination and the strength of their vision to see what can be unburdened by what has been,” Harris said, wearing a white suit in tribute to women’s suffrage. She called it a testament to President-elect Joe Biden’s character that “he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country, and select a woman as his vice president.

“While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not

be the last,” Harris said in her first post-election speech to the nation.

The 56-year-old California senator, also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, represents the multiculturalism that defines America but is largely absent from Washington’s power centers. Her Black identity has allowed her to speak in personal terms in a year of reckoning over police brutality and systemic racism. As the highest-ranking woman ever elected in American government, her victory gives hope to women who were devastated by Hillary Clinton’s defeat four years ago.

Harris told little children to “dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they’ve never seen it before.” After Biden’s speech, she was joined on stage by her family, includ-

ing her two grandnieces, who wore white dresses.

A rising star in Democratic politics for much of the last two decades, Harris served as San Francisco’s district attorney and California’s attorney general before becoming a U.S. senator. After she ended her own 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, Joe Biden tapped her as his running mate. They will be sworn in as president and vice president on Jan. 20.

Biden’s running mate selection carried added significance because he will be the oldest president ever inaugurated, at 78, and hasn’t committed to seeking a second term in 2024.

Despite the excitement surrounding Harris, she and Biden face steep challenges, including a pandemic that has taken a disproportionate toll on people of color, and a series of police killings of Black Americans that have deepened racial

tensions. Harris’ past work as a prosecutor has prompted skepticism among progressives and young voters who are looking to her to back sweeping institutional change over incremental reforms in policing, drug policy and more.

Jessica Byrd, who leads the Movement for Black Lives’ Electoral Justice Project and The Frontline, a multiracial coalition effort to galvanize voters, said she plans to engage in the rigorous organizing work needed to push Harris and Biden toward more progressive policies.

“I deeply believe in the power of Black women’s leadership, even when all of our politics don’t align,” Byrd said. “I want us to be committed to the idea that representation is exciting and it’s worthy of celebration, and also that we have millions of Black women who deserve a fair shot.”

Trump spends day refusing to concede election to Biden

The Washington Post

STERLING, Va. — On Saturday, Donald Trump finally became the one thing he hates the most: a loser.

President Trump had just arrived at his namesake golf course in Virginia on Saturday morning — whizzing past signs blaring “Biden/Harris” and “Good Riddance” — when Democratic nominee Joe Biden pulled so far ahead in the Pennsylvania vote count that, four days after Election Day, he was finally declared the next president of the United States.

The Associated Press reported that Sunday, Trump spent his first day as a lame duck president golfing. Trump arrived at his Virginia golf club just before 10 a.m. on Sunday for the second day in a row. He was welcomed by several protesters, including one who held a sign that read, “Orange Crushed.”

That Trump was pummeling

drives off a tee box as Biden made the transition from former vice president to president-elect was a fitting coda for a leader who craved the perks and power of the office, but often seemed reluctant to do the job.

On conference calls that morning with allies, Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien and deputy campaign manager Justin Clark encouraged donors to contribute to a legal fund.

One person close to the White House, however, said the efforts in the states were less about actually contesting the election results and more about helping Trump come to terms with his defeat.

“The legal operation is designed for Trump to save face and ultimately give him the ability to say he didn’t lose the election fair and square,” this person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to share details of private discussions. “So we’re going to roll with it.”

Census takers say they were instructed to record false info

Associated Press

Two census takers told The Associated Press that their supervisors pressured them to enter false information into a computer system about homes they had not visited so they could close cases during the waning days of the once-a-decade national headcount.

Maria Arce said her supervisor in Massachusetts offered step-by-step instructions in how to trick the system. She said she felt guilty about lying, but she did not want to disobey her supervisors, who kept repeating that they were under pressure from a regional office in New York to close cases.

“It was all a sham. I felt terrible, terrible. I knew I was lying. I knew I was doing something wrong, but they said, ‘No, no, we are closing. We have to do this,’” Arce said.

At the time, in mid- to late September, census workers were drawing close to a deadline imposed by President Don-

ald Trump’s administration to finish the count by the end of the month.

Indiana census taker Pam Roberts’ supervisor pressured her to make up answers about households where no one was home.

Roberts agreed to do it for only one day — making up information on about two dozen households — before refusing to continue the next day because she believed it was wrong. She said she entered made-up answers while in her car outside the homes since the mobile device used for data entry could track where a person was when making an entry.

“That’s not what this is about. If it’s not truthful, how can we use it?” Roberts, who lives in Lafayette, Ind., said in an interview.

Asked about the workers’ statements to the AP, the Census Bureau said it was looking into the allegations, but it did not provide further details.

White House hit with new virus outbreak

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — The White House has been hit with a fresh wave of coronavirus infections, an administration official said Saturday, after Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and five other Trump aides received positive test results in the period around Election Day.

Meadows, who tested positive Wednesday, at first told others not to disclose his condition. But after his diagnosis became public late Friday, the official confirmed that a broader outbreak threatens to create a new crisis in the West Wing just as Meadows and other top aides are trying to help President Donald Trump navigate a bitter loss at the polls to Democrat Joe Biden.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter on the record, declined to name the affected aides or provide information about their conditions. In addition to the six White House staffers, a Trump campaign official said campaign adviser Nick Trainer has also tested positive.

The outbreak comes as coronavirus cases are spiking across the nation: Saturday brought more than 134,000 new cases — setting a record for the fourth day in a row — and deaths and hospitalizations are also on the rise.

Alaska

ANCHORAGE — Alaska on Saturday reported hitting a daily record in new coronavirus cases.

The state reported 604 cases, the highest in a single day since Oct. 25, when 526 cases were tallied, the Anchorage Daily News reported. The Department of Health and Social Services said there were no new deaths from the virus.

The state has had 19,306 cases and 79 deaths since the coronavirus hit.

The Daily News reported that 95 people were currently hospitalized with the virus in Alaska as of Saturday, slightly down from Friday's record of

97 hospitalizations. Another 10 hospital patients were suspected of having COVID-19, according to state data.

Kansas

WICHITA — A council member in Kansas' largest city has tested positive for the coronavirus, forcing the mayor and other council members to quarantine for about two weeks.

Wichita announced council member Brandon Johnson's positive result Saturday in a tweet. The city says Mayor Brandon Whipple, members of the City Council and some staff, including city manager Robert Layton, must temporarily stay away from city hall.

"The City continues to strongly urge all Wichita residents and City employees to practice safe social distancing whenever possible, to wear face masks when distancing isn't possible, limit public exposure and to wash hands frequently," the City of Wichita tweeted.

Kentucky

LEXINGTON — Kentucky reported 2,162 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday and 17 more deaths as a result of the coronavirus.

The percentage of tests that came back positive over the past seven days stood at 7.17% as of Saturday, the highest positivity rate since May 5, according to a news release from Gov. Andy Beshear.

As of Saturday, 1,129 Kentuckians were hospitalized with the virus, including 289 in intensive care and 149 on a ventilator.

New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico on Saturday for the second day in a row reported nearly 1,300 additional COVID-19 cases and 16 additional deaths.

Officials said there are 1,287 additional cases, a one-day record that was the same number reported Friday. But they said Saturday that 10 of the cases reported Friday had turned out to be duplicates or not

lab-confirmed.

With those adjustments and the latest reported cases, the statewide case total reached 53,671 with 1,104 deaths.

New York

NEW YORK — New York's coronavirus positivity rate has soared to 2.2% and the state recorded the most COVID-19 cases in six months, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday.

Nearly 3,600 New Yorkers tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday and 18 died.

There were 3,586 new coronavirus cases, a number that has soared in recent weeks. The last time it was that high was May 2 when the state was still recovering from the worst of the pandemic.

Staten Island logged a 3.0% positivity rate as it became the worst hot spot in the city.

Cuomo has preached the importance of respecting public health rules like wearing masks and social distancing for months.

Oregon

HILLSBORO — The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating reports that a circuit court judge is endangering the health of workers and jurors by ignoring a statewide mask mandate in his courtroom.

The Oregonian/Oregonian-Live reported in a story Saturday that Washington County Circuit Judge Charles Bailey describes the mask mandate as a "nanny state" requirement.

He doesn't wear a face covering and isn't requiring others to do so in his courtroom in Hillsboro in western Oregon.

Bailey told attorneys and jurors in the Oct. 29 recording that it was up to them whether they wanted to wear a mask.

South Dakota

RAPID CITY — South Dakota continues to amass records as the COVID-19 pandemic surges across the state.

The Rapid City Journal reports that a health officials report for the first time showed more than 500 people hospitalized, 15,000 active cases and deaths continued to climb above 500.

Thirteen more deaths were recorded Saturday. There have been 98 deaths in the first week of November after October set a record with 202 deaths in 31 days.

Texas

AUSTIN — The number of reported coronavirus cases in Texas rose by 7,677, Saturday with more than 1,000 of those in El Paso where a coronavirus surge has formed a significant part of the statewide COVID-19 trend, health officials reported.

The El Paso health department reported 1,020 new cases Saturday for a total of 61,104 since the pandemic began and that 1,064 people were hospitalized as three Air Force medical teams are being sent to assist health officials.

El Paso health officials reported four more deaths to raise the count to 661 and five Federal Emergency Management Administration trailers have been sent to the border city to help accommodate the surge of COVID-19 fatalities.

Washington

OLYMPIA — Washington set a daily record for new coronavirus cases, with 1,777 new cases announced Saturday, and the state Department of Health warned that COVID-19 cases are spreading in the Puget Sound region.

In a written statement, the health agency said that the high numbers the state has seen over the past week reflect an overall surge that started in mid-September. King, Snohomish and Pierce counties are currently the hot spots in the region, officials said.

"We are very concerned that disease transmission will only grow over the next few weeks with the holidays coming up," said Secretary of Health John Wiesman.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 people charged in destruction of obelisk

NM SANTA FE — Two people accused of destroying a monument in New Mexico that had stood at the center of Santa Fe's historic Plaza for more than 150 years were charged, authorities said.

The Santa Fe Police Department announced that Lily Sage Schweitzer, 33, and Ryan Witt, 29, each face multiple charges including criminal damage to property, criminal trespass and unlawful assembly. Witt was also charged with unauthorized graffiti.

Demonstrators at a rally on Indigenous Peoples Day last month took over the Soldiers' Monument. They used ropes and chains to pull down the obelisk, which some view as a symbol of the oppression of Native Americans.

2 men charged for courthouse bomb threat

PA JIM THORPE — Pennsylvania authorities said two Carbon County men were charged for allegedly calling in a bomb threat that led to a courthouse evacuation.

According to the Carbon County District Attorney, charges were filed against Jason Bracero and Christopher Ohl in relation to a bomb threat called in Oct. 21 that also resulted in the evacuation of businesses near the courthouse in Jim Thorpe, Pennlive reported.

District Attorney Michael S. Greek said in a press release that Ohl was scheduled for a urine test at the county's Adult Probation Office but told a co-worker, Bracero, that he might not pass. Bracero allegedly offered to call in a bomb threat.

Bracero and Ohl are facing

charges of terroristic threats, threats to use weapons of mass destruction, false alarms to agencies of public safety and false reports.

Deputies remove gator from school playground

FL OKEECHOBEE — A Florida school named after Everglades National Park experienced a taste of what the wetlands has to offer when a small alligator appeared on the school's playground.

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office said its deputies found the alligator at Everglades Elementary School, according to a department Facebook post.

The school's mascot is an alligator clad in orange, which is a bit different from the 4-foot-6-inch alligator the deputies captured.

Deputies later released the gator in the Nubbin Slough River.

Man charged with stealing shrimp boat

SC MURRELLS INLET — A South Carolina man was charged with stealing something that rarely goes missing: a 40-foot-long shrimp boat.

Charlie Werner told The Sun News he left his trawler, the Lila Lee, alone for about 15 hours to find it missing from a marina at Murrells Inlet on Halloween. Surveillance video later showed a man hop into the boat before taking off hours earlier in the dark.

The \$75,000 boat was later found stuck on a sandbar near the inlet.

Three days after finding the boat, the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office issued a wanted poster for Daniel Connor Janowski, 28, who was arrested

on a charge of taking the boat. He also was charged with possessing a stolen vehicle that was found in the marina parking lot, reports said.

Mother faces charge after son arrested again

LA ABBEVILLE — A Louisiana mother faces charges after her son, who was under a court-ordered safety plan due to a shooting incident, was found to once again be involved in a shooting.

Lakesha Levy, 35, of Abbeville, was arrested on charges of felony improper supervision of a minor by a parent, Abbeville Police said in a news release.

Levy is the parent of a juvenile who has an ankle monitor due to a recent shooting incident, The Advertiser reported. While being monitored, the juvenile was found to once again be involved in a shooting incident, police said.

Kid shoots grandma with gun found in church

PA UNIONTOWN — A 10-year-old accidentally shot his grandmother after getting a gun in a western Pennsylvania church, police said.

According to authorities, the boy obtained the weapon after breaking into a lockbox inside the Solid Rock Ministry Church.

Police said the child began firing the weapon outside the church.

"I don't think he realized the severity of what he had in his hand and the grandmother was going out to stop him as he was shooting into the church building and that's when she got shot," Uniontown City Police Lt. Tom Kolencik told WTAE-TV.

The grandmother was shot twice and police said she was expected to survive.

Postal carrier arrested with 813 pieces of mail

NY BUFFALO — A New York postal carrier was arrested with a vehicle containing 813 pieces of mail, including three absentee ballots sent to two Buffalo addresses from the Erie County Board of Elections.

Brandon Wilson, 27, told the Customs and Border Protection agents who arrested him that the mail belonged to him and his mother, but could not account for the mail that was not addressed to either party, according to a complaint filed by a special agent for the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

He denied throwing away mail or stealing greeting cards, cash or checks from his delivery route, according to the complaint. He also denied knowing about the election ballots.

Pilot becomes stranded in tree during crash

MO WRIGHT CITY — An eastern Missouri pilot was rescued after his plane became lodged in a tree during a crash.

KMOV reported that Lincoln County Fire and Rescue officials said pilot Mike Fleming, 78, made his way onto a tree branch after crashing in Wright City. More than two hours later, he was lowered to safety in a harness.

"He said he was doing fine but his legs were getting tired," said Matt Conoyer of Central County Fire and Rescue.

Fleming said he was trying to land on his private airstrip in front of his home after the engine in his one-seater ultralight plane began to sputter. He tried to clear the trees between him and the runway.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Fans storm field after No. 4 Irish take down No. 1 Tigers in 2 OTs

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — When Clemson's desperate attempt to convert a fourth-and-forever ended in a scrum, Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book tossed his helmet as he sprinted onto the field to celebrate with his teammates.

In seconds, thousands of fans joined in, rushing the field for a postgame party in a pandemic that most definitely did not meet the CDC's social-distancing guidelines.

"When fans stormed the field, it was fun," Book said.

Kyren Williams put the Irish ahead with a 3-yard touchdown run in the second overtime and No. 4 Notre Dame shut down top-ranked Clemson with a couple of sacks to seal a 47-40 win Saturday night.

The first victory over a No. 1 in 27 years for the Fighting Irish can be added to the list of famous streak-breakers in Notre Dame history: Catholics vs. Convicts in 1988 snapped Miami's 36-game regular-season winning streak and the shutout of Oklahoma in 1957 broke the Sooners's record 47-game roll.

Clemson (7-1, 6-1) had won 36 straight regular-season games and had not lost to an Atlantic Coast Conference team since 2017. The Fighting Irish (7-0, 6-0), playing in the ACC only because of the pandemic, brought them all to a halt.

"No matter how old I am, I'll remember this one forever," Book said.

Whoknowswherethisvictory should rank in Notre Dame lore, but considering the setting and this weird pandemic-altered season it is probably its most bizarre.

"I had told our team in our walk-through today, 'Just want you to know when we win this game the fans are going to storm the field. With COVID being what it is, we need to get off the field,'" Irish coach Brian Kelly said. "I beat them

off the field."

Williams ran for 140 yards and three touchdowns and Book, the fifth-year senior quarterback, led a 91-yard drive in the final two minutes of regulation to tie it at 33 on a 4-yard touchdown pass to Avery Davis with 22 seconds left.

After Williams gave Notre Dame the lead on the first possession of the second OT, the Irish pushed Clemson back with back-to-back sacks on DJ Uigalelei by Adetokumbo Ogundeji and Daelin Hayes to set up a third-and-24.

"I took a sack in the red zone," Uigalelei said. "... I can't do that."

The five-star freshman quarterback's third-down pass was broken up and his final completion on fourth down was way short of the line to gain. A couple of laterals didn't help and the Irish and their fans went wild.

The Fighting Irish have won 13 straight games and they snapped an 11-game losing streak against top-five teams while beating No. 1 for the first time since taking down Florida State in 1993 at Notre Dame Stadium.

"They dadgum earned it," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "We handle our business, maybe we'll get a chance to play again."

Uigalelei, starting in place of Trevor Lawrence for a second straight week, passed for 439 yards, the most ever by a Notre Dame opponent. Lawrence was on the sideline for this one, a few days out of isolation after having COVID-19.

"I'd like to have Dabo's problems with those two guys," Kelly said. "DJ was just outstanding."

Swinney said Lawrence will return to practice Monday.

The biggest game at Notre Dame Stadium since No. 1 Southern California beat the Irish with the Push Bush in 2005 had only 11,011 in attendance, mostly students, be-

cause of pandemic restrictions.

When it was over, they poured onto the field — coronavirus be damned.

"That's the first time I've ever seen any college storm the field. That was a cool experience," Williams said, and then quickly recalled his coach's advice, "He told us to get inside after the game as fast as we could."

Notre Dame Stadium public address announcer Mike Collins spent about 30 minutes after the game encouraging fans to leave the field and stadium safely, while not trying to be a buzzkill.

"If you leave now you can get out before last call," Collins said.

The Fighting Irish needed a two-week break earlier this season because of a COVID-19 outbreak, but it didn't keep them from entering this showdown with Clemson unbeaten.

They might just see each other again in the ACC championship game in December.

"Man, I think it's very likely," said Notre Dame linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, who returned a fumble for a touchdown in the first half as the Irish built a 13-point lead.

Uigalelei, who led the Tigers from 18 down last week against Boston College in his first start, sneaked into the end zone on the second play of overtime to put Clemson up 40-33. Notre Dame responded with a 3-yard touchdown run by Williams and kick to tie it instead of going for 2 to end it.

Five seasons ago when these teams last played on a rainy night in Clemson, the Tigers stopped the Irish on a potential tying 2-point conversion with 7 seconds left in regulation.

Not only were the Tigers missing Lawrence, but three key defensive starters were out with injuries.

"We didn't win the game, but you saw what this team is made of," Swinney said. "This team is made of the right stuff."

Top 25 takeaways

Michigan in driver's seat for coaching carousel

Associated Press

Conventional wisdom heading into this college football season has been that there is unlikely to be much coaching turnover.

Between pandemic-related revenue losses and the complications of trying to evaluate performance under such unusual circumstances, the coaching carousel figured to be quiet.

Then Michigan started 1-2 in its sixth season under coach Jim Harbaugh. The 23rd-ranked Wolverines — yes, they were still ranked — lost 38-21 at No. 13 Indiana on Saturday, snapping a 24-game winning streak against the Hoosiers that dated to 1987.

Harbaugh has only one more season left after this on his original contract.

The khaki-clad former Michigan quarterback returned to Ann Arbor as a savior, made the Wolverines better, became a content machine for sports media and lost all five games vs. Ohio State. Whatever shortcomings Harbaugh has had at Michigan, his teams have never won fewer than eight regular-season games and rarely lost to the opponents Michigan is supposed to beat.

Firing Harbaugh after a truncated and odd season does not seem like the Michigan way. The more interesting question at this point: Does Harbaugh want to do this anymore? His contract situation is unheard of in college football, where schools are more likely to rush into a bad extension than let a winning coach get close to walk year.

It's difficult to forecast where this could be going, but a scenario in which Harbaugh decides he has done all he can do with the job and moves on without hurting the school financially seems plausible.

Trask leads No. 8 Florida past No. 5 Georgia

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Kyle Trask started jumping up and down on the sideline. His Florida teammates took it to another level, running and leaping into the stands.

Coach Dan Mullen wasn't going to be left out of the fun. Mullen pulled himself onto the edge of the front row and celebrated wildly with fans.

Mullen clearly understood the magnitude of the victory. Everyone did.

Trask had another four-touchdown night, becoming the first quarterback in Southeastern Conference history to accomplish the feat in five consecutive games, and the eighth-ranked Gators beat No. 5 and undermanned Georgia 44-28 on Saturday.

"You've got to enjoy it," Mullen said. "I might be 48 years old, but I'm really young on the inside so I've still got to enjoy some of that stuff."

Florida (4-1) ended a three-game losing streak in the rivalry known as the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" — it was Mullen's most significant victory in three years in Gainesville — and now has a stranglehold on the SEC's East Division.

The Bulldogs (4-2), who entered the game as 3½-point favorites, were likely eliminated from College Football Playoff consideration and probably have a quarterback competition moving forward.

The Gators, meanwhile, have a Heisman Trophy contender.

Trask completed 30 of 43 passes for a ca-

reer-high 474 yards — 8 yards shy of Tim Tebow's single-game school record — despite playing much of the night without standout tight end Kyle Pitts.

Pitts was knocked out of the game in the second quarter on Lewis Cine's crushing hit over the middle. Cine was ejected for targeting, adding to Georgia's already-thin defense.

The Bulldogs were without nose tackle Jordan Davis (elbow), safety Richard LeCounte (motorcycle accident) and defensive tackle Julian Rochester (knee) to start the game.

Trask and Florida took advantage, burning Georgia repeatedly with wheel routes while overcoming a 14-0 deficit. Running backs Malik Davis, Nay'Quan Wright and Dameon Pierce combined to catch 10 passes for 212 yards.

"Kyle Trask does a great job," Mullen said. "He's not going to force the ball. If they're going bracket and take away and double people, he's going to go to who you're not doubling or covering."

Once Trask got going, the Bulldogs did little to stop him. The Gators scored on seven of eight possessions after a three-and-out to open the game and finished with 571 yards — the most allowed in Georgia coach Kirby Smart's five seasons.

"We just can't let this game define us," Dawgs receiver Kearis Jackson said. "We're not in the situation we want to be in right now, but we still have games to be played. There are still plays out there to be

made." The Bulldogs had several chances to make it a one-possession game late, but D'Wan Mathis kept overthrowing open receivers. Mathis, who started the season opener, replaced Stetson Bennett in the third quarter.

Bennett left the game briefly in the first quarter with a shoulder injury and was ineffective after returning. He completed 5 of 16 passes for 78 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

Bennett was without his top target, George Pickens (upper body), and lost Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint to an apparent broken right leg on a 32-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter.

Replays showed the severity of Rosemy-Jacksaint's injury as team trainers rushed to the end zone and quickly got an air cast on his leg. He was carted into the tunnel amid a standing ovation. Florida safety Brad Stewart hit Rosemy-Jacksaint just before he crossed the goal line.

The Dawgs led 14-0 after the freshman's first career TD reception. Zamir White scored on the game's first play from scrimmage, going untouched for 75 yards.

It looked like it would be a Georgia rout. It ended up being Florida's night to celebrate.

"I don't make excuses," Smart said, pointing out his team is 19-2 in its last 21 East games. "I don't look at it as cause for concern. ... I'm not going to say the sky's falling or everything's coming down. We've got to be better."

No. 13 Indiana downs No. 23 Michigan to end streak

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — After the postgame party was over, after Indiana fans chanted "We want Bama!" and coach Tom Allen went crowd-surfing in the Hoosiers' locker room again, Michael Penix Jr. started looking ahead.

Penix and company want more — much more.

Penix passed for 342 yards and a career-high three touchdowns, and No. 13 Indiana beat No. 23 Michigan 38-21 on Saturday for its first victory against the Wolverines in 33 years.

"When we play a great team like that, we have to make sure we play great football. We did that," he said. "But it's just the beginning because we still

have some more games to follow up on."

With a chunk play here, a free play there and a few dinks and dunks thrown in to keep drives alive, Penix helped the Hoosiers snap a 24-game losing streak in the series — tied for the longest active skid in the Football Bowl Subdivision. It was the Hoosiers' first win against the Wolverines since Oct. 24, 1987, just their second in 41 games and only the second in the 21 games played at Memorial Stadium.

"I was a senior in high school the last time we beat Michigan and I'm 50 years old, so that's not something that happened yesterday," a hoarse Allen said. "I remember sitting here a few years ago when we lost in over-

time to Michigan and that one hurt. I was just determined we were going to get this done."

Indiana (3-0) earned its fourth consecutive Big Ten win. If it matches the school record next week at Michigan State, it could set up a showdown between the East Division's only unbeaten teams Nov. 21 at No. 3 Ohio State.

Joe Milton threw for 344 yards and three touchdowns, but the Wolverines (1-2) dropped their second straight game — turning up the pressure on coach Jim Harbaugh in his sixth season at the school. Michigan doesn't have a top-15 road win since beating Notre Dame in 2006.

Indiana's Stevie Scott III ran

for 97 yards and two second-half scores. Ty Fryfogle caught seven passes for a career-best 142 yards — all in the first half — and Whop Philyor finished with 11 receptions for 79 yards. The defense allowed only 13 yards rushing while forcing two turnovers.

Allen challenged his players with a physical practice Wednesday and they responded on game day. Penix was 30-for-50, helping Indiana convert nine of 16 third downs.

Defensively, the Hoosiers also took charge. They forced the Wolverines into three-and-outs on three of their first four series and only allowed them to take five snaps in Indiana territory through the first three quarters.

Skidding Pats, 0-8 Jets try to turn it around

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Well, this is unusual.

The skidding New England Patriots and winless New York Jets square off Monday night in a once-spicy matchup of AFC East rivals dealing with big-time struggles.

The Jets' woes are nothing new, of course, but they're a loss away from the first 0-9 record in franchise history. Meanwhile, Bill Belichick's bunch is sputtering into MetLife Stadium on a four-game losing streak. And, that's just not normal.

"Nobody plans for a bad season, that's for sure," Patriots running back James White said. "We're still competing. Everything we want is still out there in front of us. We just have to turn the sense of urgency up a lot more."

That has usually not been a problem for New England under Belichick, whose teams have won 11 straight division titles — with Tom Brady at quarterback, of course. He's now in Tampa.

The Patriots currently sit in third place — yes, third! — at 2-5, two games behind Miami (4-3) and 3½ behind AFC East-leading Buffalo (6-2).

Sure, there's time to turn things around, but a loss to the Jets in front of a prime-time TV audience would mark New England's first five-game losing streak since 1995, when it finished 6-10 under Bill Parcells.

Adam Gase's Jets know about negative results. New York is 0-8 for the first time since the 1996 team lost its first eight and finished 1-15 under Rich Kotite. That team is generally considered the worst in Jets

history, but this year's squad could give that one a run — especially if they lose Monday night to make some dubious franchise history.

"Obviously everyone wants to win," quarterback Sam Darnold said. "That's why we're in this business. That's why we're professional football players. We got here by winning football games. For us, we've just got to put our heads down and go back to work. I feel like if we do that, we can win this game and worry about the next when it's up"

Down Darnold

Darnold will likely sit out the game after his throwing shoulder didn't feel right in practice Friday after reinjuring it last week at Kansas City. He was listed as doubtful Saturday. Joe Flacco is expected to start in his place.

That comes after Darnold initially sprained the AC joint in the arm and had to sit out two games. He struggled since his return, and thrown for just three touchdowns with six interceptions in six games this season. His 65.9 quarterback rating is last in the NFL among quarterbacks that have made at least three starts.

"When I talked to him, I see a guy that's, you know, he's young, but he understands kind of what this profession is," Gase said. "It's about what can we do to change things, what can we do to fix things, what does he have to do, what do the rest of the guys have to do? He's trying to acquire that information to make sure that he understands like, 'Where can I help change things?'"

NASCAR claims win by finishing a season

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — NASCAR will take the checkered flag on its season, one of the longest in professional sports, celebrating its ability to work through the pandemic and close its year.

The season was suspended March 13 after just four of 36 races had been completed. The shutdown lasted 10 weeks, a hectic time in which the industry wasn't sure it could survive.

Nobody makes any money unless NASCAR runs its races and the sport was desperate to get back to work. NASCAR was one of the first sports to resume in May, one of the first

to get fans back at its events, and used a crammed and overhauled schedule of doubleheaders and midweek races to get to Sunday's season finale.

When the Cup champion is crowned at Phoenix Raceway, all three of NASCAR's national series will have completed their full season.

"I would suggest this is the single most difficult year that we've faced as a sport," NASCAR President Steve Phelps said Saturday in the annual state of the sport — held for the first time over Zoom.

"What we have done during this global pandemic is I think nothing short of remarkable," Phelps added.

Cindric wins Xfinity Series title with victory at Phoenix

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Austin Cindric charged on fresh tires to his first NASCAR championship with a gutsy overtime drive Saturday to win the Xfinity Series finale at Phoenix Raceway.

Cindric was already headed toward the win when title-favorite Chase Briscoe spun with six laps remaining. It brought out a caution that forced Cindric and Team Penske into a bold race-deciding strategy call.

Cindric handed contender Justin Allgaier the lead by pitting for new tires, a call that dropped Cindric to third for the two-lap overtime shootout. Cindric didn't once sweat the decision because he'd played loose headed into the finale after a disappointing playoffs.

"You'd think I'd be nervous this entire weekend, but given how important this race was for me and my team I was happy to be here, happy to be racing for a championship and that mentality has paid off," Cindric said. "I've been points racing for the

last six weeks and I got to drive my (butt) off for one day."

Allgaier had taken new tires on the previous pit stop — he and Cindric were on opposite strategies — and Allgaier restarted as the leader. He chose the top lane and Cindric chose to start up there, too, right behind Allgaier.

Cindric had to first wrestle with Noah Gragson, Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate, for position before he got his shot at Allgaier. Gragson moved to the lead and then Cindric bounced off Allgaier as the two took the white flag.

Cindric cleared Allgaier and, even though he didn't have to win the race to win the title, he chased down Gragson for extra measure.

It was Cindric's sixth win of the season but first of what had been an underwhelming playoffs. He wasn't as strong as Briscoe during the playoffs but quickly showed Saturday the No. 22 Ford was legitimate.