

## Report: Russia ups hybrid hits on NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Russia is stepping up a clandestine campaign of sabotage and hybrid attacks against the United States and its allies in Europe, as the Kremlin seeks widespread subversion of NATO assistance to Ukraine, according to a new report.

About 150 cases of Kremlin-backed hybrid operations on NATO territory have occurred since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Helsinki Commission, an independent U.S. government agency, said in a report issued Friday.

The pace has accelerated over the past two years and the Russian efforts go beyond “mere capers” of destabilization, the report said.

“Russia is simultaneously executing a shadow war on NATO to destabilize, distress, and deter the transatlantic alliance from its staunch support of Uk-

rainian sovereignty,” the report said.

The Helsinki Commission’s chairman, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and co-chairman Rep. Ben Cardin, D-Md., are selected by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives. They rotate their positions with each new Congress.

The Russian attacks involved four methods: election and information operations, attacks on critical infrastructure, violence campaigns and weaponized migration.

The hybrid campaign has ranged from cyberattacks on train stations that cause scheduling delays to attempted assassinations and terrorism plots, the commission said.

U.S. and allied military bases have been among the targets, according to the report, which noted that in April, German authorities arrested two men who are accused of surveilling the U.S. Army’s base in Grafen-

woehr, Germany, as a potential bomb plot target.

The Army base has served as a hub for U.S. efforts to train Ukrainian troops.

U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart also has been a target for espionage by operatives suspected of links to Russia, British prosecutors said recently.

In November, U.S. authorities said American defense industrial sites in Europe should step up their security over concerns that Russian saboteurs could target them.

Russia’s hybrid strategy relies on “plausible deniability” and leverages decentralized tactics that outsource operations to low-level cybercriminals and operatives, the report said.

Notable cases include Poland’s arrest in early 2024 of a man who authorities say was recruited by either Russia or its ally Belarus to bomb a paint factory in southwestern Poland.

And in June, the arrest of a man near Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport on suspicion of making bombs disrupted a Russian-orchestrated sabotage plot, the report said.

Meanwhile, mass bomb threats traced to Russian servers are routinely made across the NATO alliance, stretching from the United States to the Baltic states and countries in southern Europe, the report said.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Thursday in a speech in Brussels that allies need to get in a “wartime mindset,” ramping up military investments to counter Russia’s aggressive moves.

“Hostile actions against allied countries are real and accelerating,” Rutte said. “These attacks are not just isolated incidents. They are the result of a coordinated campaign to destabilize our societies and discourage us from supporting Ukraine.”

## US, Ukraine: N. Korean troops killed in Kursk combat

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s military intelligence agency and the Pentagon said Monday that some North Korean troops have been killed during combat against Ukrainian forces in Russia’s Kursk border region.

These are the first reported casualties since the U.S. and Ukraine announced that North Korea had sent 10,000 to 12,000 troops to Russia to help it in the almost 3-year war.

Ukraine’s military intelligence agency said around 30 North Korean troops were killed or wounded during battle

with the Ukrainian army over the weekend.

The casualties occurred around three villages in Kursk, where Russia has for four months been trying to quash a Ukrainian incursion, the agency, known by its acronym GUR, said in a public post on the Telegram messaging app.

At least three North Korean servicemen went missing around another Kursk village, GUR said.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, told reporters that some North Korean troops have died in

combat in Kursk but did not have a specific number of those killed or wounded.

Those troops have primarily been used in an infantry role and started fighting in combat operations about a week ago, Ryder said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov referred questions to the Russian Defense Ministry, which didn’t immediately comment.

The alliance gave a jolt to international relations, and Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that the planned deployment of U.S. interme-

diate-range missiles to Europe and Asia has brought new threats.

However, military analysts say the language barrier has bedeviled combat coordination between Russian and North Korean troops.

“The poor integration and ongoing communication problems between Russian and North Korean forces will likely continue to cause friction in Russian military operations in Kursk ... in the near term,” the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said late Sunday.

# Navy seeks upgraded sea training areas

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy is seeking public comment on the impact of a proposed expansion and modernization of vast training areas the service uses in waters off Hawaii and California, including the planned addition of mine warfare ranges.

The areas, which the Navy refers to as the Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area, have been used by the service for decades for air, surface and underwater training and testing.

A draft environmental impact statement issued Friday was prepared because the Navy is proposing changes it says are needed to train and test America's newest weapons and drone systems and defend against those of rivals.

"Adversaries of the United States have and continue to acquire modern, quiet submarines that can pose serious threats to national security, the safety of military forces, and the nation's economy," a fact sheet accompanying the environmental study states. "Sonar proficiency is complex and requires regular, hands-on training in realistic and diverse conditions."

Among the changes proposed in the training areas are:

- A special use airspace in the Southern California range intended to provide real-world maneuver space for manned and unmanned aircraft.

- Upgrades and maintenance to the existing Southern California offshore anti-submarine range with the installation of underwater recording devices called hydrophones and

undersea cables.

- Creation of two new shallow-water training ranges as extensions to the offshore anti-submarine range.

- Deployment of seafloor cables and connected instrumentation in Southern California and Hawaii.

- Installation and maintenance of underwater platforms used for underwater vehicle pilot proficiency training in Hawaii and Southern California.

- Installation and maintenance of mine warfare training areas, which would include installation, removal and replacement of non-explosive mine countermeasure targets offshore of Hawaii and Southern California.

Nearshore areas such as Kaneohe Bay and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on the

east side of Oahu are expected to be used "more frequently or for new training or testing activities, such as mine warfare training," the fact sheet states.

Environmentalists have long criticized the Navy's use of sonar and explosives at sea because of their deleterious effect on sea mammals and sea turtles.

The environmental impact statement concluded that the modifications and additions to the training areas would have "less than significant" effect on sea creatures, plants and water and air quality.

The proposed uses, however, would cumulatively "contribute incremental effects on the ocean ecosystem, which is already experiencing and absorbing a multitude of stressors to a variety of receptors," the assessment states.

## Marines embrace jungle training at Okinawa center

By BRIAN McELHINEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP GONSALVES, Okinawa — About 40 Marines took turns Wednesday descending a 45-foot cliff — a hasty rappelling obstacle — part of a weeklong course designed to teach them and other service members how to fight and survive in a jungle environment.

Instructors at the cliff bottom — "jungle leaders" — called out encouragement, shouting out when to crawl, walk and run.

"Right now, because it's the beginning of the day, they're just going through without any equipment on," Gunnery Sgt. Caleb Holsinger, the basic jungle skills course chief, said during a media tour of the center. "But later on in the day you'll see rifles and packs and stuff like that going down both of these."

The potential for conflict in the Indo-Pacific has heightened

the importance of jungle warfare training in recent years, according to Lt. Col. Kelly Candies, director of the training center.

For example, while no Marine is required to take jungle warfare training, the recently created 12th Marine Littoral Regiment based at Camp Hansen is considering the course.

Littoral regiments are designed as smaller, mobile units inserted within enemy missile range to seize and hold key Pacific islands and deny enemy vessels access to surrounding areas, a key tenet of the Marine Corp's island-fighting doctrine in its Force Design plan.

At the rappelling site, the 45-degree hasty rappel seemed a bit less daunting than the nearly vertical, 70-foot-high main rappelling cliff.

The hardest part for Marines rappelling from the 70-foot cliff

is just "getting off that platform," said Cpl. Irving Gomez, a jungle leader.

"We do brief them on, when they first originally get here, how tall the cliff is just to get them mentally prepared," he said, looking down from the cliff top. "But we don't have a smaller one. They see a good and bad demo, and that would be their view of seeing and getting confident and ready for the rappel."

The Jungle Warfare Training Center — the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense — was established in 1958 across 17,000 acres of mountains and jungle in the north of Okinawa. It's open to Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen, as well as other NATO forces and Japanese troops, Holsinger said.

The center offers four courses: basic jungle skills; a five-week jungle leaders' course that qualifies service members to

lead other troops through jungle terrain; a jungle medicine course; and a jungle communications course. Units can also use the center to do their own training, Holsinger said.

About 7,000 to 10,000 troops come through the center each year, he said.

About 160 Marines from several units signed up for the basic jungle skills course Wednesday.

They practiced Tuesday and on Wednesday at several stations: cliff rappelling; survival skills such as fire-making, finding water and building shelters; patrolling; and combat casualty care. They were scheduled to be tested Thursday for their certifications, Holsinger said.

The course concludes Friday with a nearly four-mile, 18-obstacle jungle course.

"The importance is that we are prepared to do our job in any environment," Candies said.

# USAF base closes airspace over drones

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — More suspected drone sightings in the eastern U.S. led to a temporary airspace shutdown at an Air Force base in Ohio and arrests near Boston's Logan International Airport, as elected officials increased their push for action to identify and stop the mysterious unmanned flights.

Drones flying around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, forced base officials to close the airspace for about four hours late Friday into early Saturday, said Robert Purtiman, a base spokesperson.

It is the first time drones have been spotted at the base, one of the largest in the world, and no sightings have been reported since early Saturday, Purtiman said Monday. He would not say

how many drones were flying in the area, adding that they ranged in size and that they did not impact any base facilities.

In Boston, police arrested two men accused of operating a drone "dangerously close" to Logan Airport on Saturday night. Authorities said an officer using drone monitoring technology detected the aircraft and the location of the operators. A third man who fled police remains at large. Authorities said the two men face trespassing charges, and could face more charges and fines.

Boston police urged drone operators to adhere to federal safety guidelines.

"Even small drones pose significant risks, including the potential for catastrophic damage to airplanes and helicopters. Near-collisions can cause pilots to veer

off course, putting lives and property at risk," police said.

National security officials have said the drones recently spotted in the eastern part of the country don't appear to be signs of foreign interference or a public safety threat. But because they can't say with certainty who is responsible for the sudden swarms of drones leaders of both political parties are demanding better technology and powers to deal with them.

"There's a lot of us who are pretty frustrated right now," Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday," as drone sightings were being reported in his state. "We don't know" is not a good enough answer."

Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer on Sunday called for the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security to deploy better drone-tracking technology to New York and New Jersey to identify the drones and their operators. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said federal officials had agreed to send a drone detection system to the state.

Federal aviation authorities have required certain drones to broadcast their remote identification since last year, including the location of their operators. It's not clear whether that information has been used to determine who is behind the drones plaguing locations over New York and New Jersey.

Dozens of mysterious nighttime flights started last month over parts of New Jersey, raising concerns among residents and officials.

## 3 dead, others are injured in Wis. school shooting

*Associated Press*

A youth opened fire at a private Christian school Monday morning in Wisconsin, killing two people in the final week before Christmas break. The shooter also died, police said.

Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes offered no details on the victims but said other people

were wounded at Abundant Life Christian School, a K-12 school with about 390 students. Police previously said a total of five people had died.

"Today is a sad, sad day, not only for Madison but for our entire country," Barnes told reporters. He said police were alerted shortly before 11 a.m. and did not fire

their weapons when they rushed into the school. Barnes suggested the shooter died by suicide.

Police blocked off roads around the school. Federal agents were at the scene to assist local law enforcement.

"We are praying for the kids, educators, and entire Abundant Life school community as we

await more information and are grateful for the first responders who are working quickly to respond," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said in a statement.

The White House said President Joe Biden has been briefed on the shooting.

Abundant Life Christian School is nondenominational.

## GAO: Trump's 2020 bid to speed DOD buying didn't take

*Bloomberg*

Donald Trump ended his previous term as president with a set of changes billed as streamlining the Defense Department's cumbersome and costly procedures to develop and buy new weapons.

That fell short, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office.

The Pentagon's "efforts to increase the speed of delivery to the warfighter have yet to improve average delivery time for weapon system acquisitions," the watchdog office said in a re-

port released Thursday. The new framework was intended to scale back the average time from the start of a program to delivery of an initial capability for major new systems. That can now take a decade or more.

The report, "Military Departments Should Take Steps to Facilitate Speed and Innovation," provides a cautionary note on the challenges that President-elect Trump, his incoming team at the Pentagon — and advisers including billionaire Elon Musk — will face despite their assurances to

make the Pentagon more agile and cost-effective and shift its focus from old-line contractors to technology innovators.

The "Adaptive Acquisition Framework" introduced in January 2020, was described as "the most transformational acquisition policy change we have seen in decades" by then-Undersecretary Ellen Lord, who was the Pentagon's chief buyer.

Shelby Oakley, the GAO's director of contracting and national security acquisition, said in a statement that "frankly, cost sav-

ings that the new administration and DoD seek will continue to remain elusive unless the services begin doing things differently."

The 2020 framework laid out six acquisition "pathways" involving streamlining designs, validating them, prototyping and then producing them tailored to specific applications or end products. One such pathway sought to fulfill urgent combat operational needs in less than two years, with development and production completed in months.



# Turkey: Syria's new leaders agree on Kurds

*Bloomberg News*

Turkey said Syria's new rebel government agrees with Ankara on the need to dismantle Kurdish military forces — a critical U.S. ally in the northern region of Syria — as countries rush to shape the future of the region after the downfall of the Assad regime.

Turkey and the U.S. have long been at loggerheads over Washington's military and logistical support to Kurdish forces in Syria. The issue remains a priority for Ankara amid talks on what Syria's future will look like under Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, which now controls Syria, with Turkish officials saying Kurdish presence at the border is a major security concern.

"In the new period, the PKK/YPG terror organization will be dissolved sooner or later," Turkish Defense Minister Yasar Gul-

er told reporters on Saturday. "Both the new administration in Syria and we want this."

No formal agreement has been announced and Guler did not provide further details. It wasn't immediately possible to verify the information with officials in the transitional government in Syria. While HTS, a former affiliate of al-Qaida that's designated a terrorist organization by the U.S., hasn't explicitly commented on any discussions with the Turks over the Kurds, the group has repeatedly said religious minorities won't be harmed under their rule.

Turkey, the U.S. and the European Union list the Kurdish militant group PKK, which has waged a decades-long armed campaign in Turkey's southeast, as a terror group.

But unlike the U.S., Turkey also sees the YPG, one of the main

factions that make up the Washington-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, as an extension of the PKK.

The Kurdish issue topped the agenda during Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Ankara earlier last week, when he met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan.

Turkish officials have urged the U.S. to review its support of the Kurdish militia. The U.S. however, has relied on the SDF to prevent potential resurgence of Islamic State, especially in the post-Assad landscape.

Turkey wants the YPG to lay down their arms as well as the departure of its foreign members from Syria, Guler said, in order to pave the way for their integration into a future Syrian security force. Any heavy weapons in their hands should also be

taken back, he said.

According to Guler, Washington has yet to respond to a Turkish proposal to allocate three commando brigades to assume the responsibility of fighting ISIS and holding detainees in Syria as he downplayed the threat level posed by the group, also known as Daesh.

"Has anyone heard of Daesh terrorists attacking in Syria in the last three years?" Guler said. "We do not hear or see anything about Daesh right now."

Blinken said Saturday that U.S. officials had spoken directly with HTS, as well as other groups, on a set of principles the U.S. and Arab partners want to guide Syria's political transition. Turkey and the U.S. were among the nations issuing a joint statement calling for an end to hostilities in Syria during a summit in Jordan over the weekend.

## Impeached South Korean leader dodges investigators

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol dodged requests by investigative agencies to appear for questioning over his short-lived martial law decree, as the Constitutional Court began its first meeting Monday on Yoon's case to determine whether to formally unseat or reinstate him.

A joint investigative team involving police, an anti-corruption agency and the Defense Ministry said it wants to question Yoon on charges of rebellion and abuse of power in connection with his ill-conceived power grab. The team on Monday tried to convey a request to officials at Yoon's office or residence but they refused to accept it, according to the Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials.

Agency investigator Son Yeong-jo cited presidential secretarial staff at Yoon's office as

claiming they were unsure whether conveying the request to the impeached president was part of their duties. Son declined to provide specifics when asked how investigators would respond if Yoon refuses to appear.

Yoon was impeached by the opposition-controlled National Assembly on Saturday over his Dec. 3 martial law decree. His presidential powers have been subsequently suspended, and the Constitutional Court is to determine whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him. If Yoon is dismissed, a national election to choose his successor must be held within 60 days.

Yoon has justified his martial law enforcement as a necessary act of governance against the main liberal opposition Democratic Party that he described as "anti-state forces" and vowed to "fight to the end" against efforts to remove him from office.

## Israel to close embassy, labels Ireland 'extreme'

*Associated Press*

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel said Sunday it will close its embassy in Ireland as relations deteriorated over the war in Gaza, where Palestinian medical officials said new Israeli airstrikes killed over 46 people including several children.

The decision to close the embassy came in response to what Israel's foreign minister has described as Ireland's "extreme anti-Israel policies." In May, Israel recalled its ambassador to Dublin after Ireland announced, along with Norway, Spain and Slovenia, it would recognize a Palestinian state.

The Irish Cabinet last week decided to formally intervene in South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, which accuses Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel denies it.

"We are concerned that a very

narrow interpretation of what constitutes genocide leads to a culture of impunity in which the protection of civilians is minimized," said Ireland's foreign affairs minister, Micheal Martin.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar's statement on the embassy closure said "Ireland has crossed every red line in its relations with Israel."

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris called the decision to close the embassy "deeply regrettable." He added on X: "I utterly reject the assertion that Ireland is anti-Israel. Ireland is pro-peace, pro-human rights and pro-international law."

The death toll in the Gaza Strip from the 14-month war between Israel and Hamas militants has topped 45,000 people, Palestinian health officials said Monday.

The Israeli military says it has killed more than 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Googly eyes go viral after appearing on public art

**OR** PORTLAND — Googly eyes have been appearing on sculptures around the central Oregon city of Bend, delighting many residents and sparking a viral sensation covered widely by news outlets and featured on a popular late-night talk show.

On social media, the city shared photos of googly eyes on installations in the middle of roundabouts that make up its so-called “Roundabout Art Route.” One photo showed googly eyes placed on a sculpture of two deer, while another showed them attached to a sphere. It’s not yet known who has been putting them on the sculptures.

Over the years, the city’s sculptures have been adorned with other seasonal decorations, including Santa hats, wreaths and leis. The city doesn’t remove those, and views the googly eyes differently because of the adhesive, Bend’s communications director, Rene Mitchell said.

“We really encourage our community to engage with the art and have fun. We just need to make sure that we can protect it and that it doesn’t get damaged,” she said.

## Enbridge pipeline spills 70,000 gallons of oil

**WI** OAKLAND — Roughly 70,000 gallons of oil from a pipeline spilled into the ground in Wisconsin, officials said.

The problem was discovered Nov. 11 in Jefferson County, 60

miles west of Milwaukee, by an Enbridge Energy technician, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported, citing a federal accident report.

Enbridge said the spill on the company’s Line 6 was caused by a faulty connection on a pump transfer pipe at the Enbridge Cambridge Station. It was an estimated 1,650 barrels, which is equivalent to about 70,000 gallons.

“Investigation and remediation began immediately upon discovery and continues. Removal of impacted soils is continuing,” spokesperson Juli Kellner said.

## Exonerated woman gets \$34M in wrong conviction

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A federal jury in Nevada has awarded more than \$34 million to a woman who was arrested at age 18, wrongly convicted twice, and served nearly 16 years in a Nevada state prison for a 2001 killing she did not commit.

Kristin Lobato, who is now 41 and uses the name Blaise, cried and hugged her attorneys after a judge read the trial verdict in U.S. District Court, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

“It’s been an uphill battle with many, many obstacles,” she told reporters. “And I’m happy that it’s all finally finished.”

Lobato said she didn’t know if becoming a millionaire would make up for years in prison, adding that she had “no idea what the rest of my life is going to look like.”

The civil trial jury found Las Vegas police and two detectives, now retired, fabricated evidence during their investiga-

tion and intentionally inflicted emotional distress upon Lobato.

The panel determined that Lobato should receive \$34 million in compensatory damages from the department and \$10,000 in punitive damages from each former detective.

## Library: Man can keep 50-year overdue book

**MI** DETROIT — Fifty years later, a man who grew up in suburban Detroit tried to return a very overdue baseball book to his boyhood library.

The answer: You can keep it — and no fine.

Chuck Hildebrandt, 63, of Chicago, said he visited the public library in Warren while in town for Thanksgiving, carrying a book titled “Baseball’s Zaniest Stars.” He had borrowed it in 1974 as a 13-year-old “baseball nut” but never returned it.

“When you’re moving with a bunch of books, you’re not examining every book. You throw them in a box and go,” said Hildebrandt, who has lived in many cities. “But five or six years ago, I was going through the bookshelf and there was a Dewey decimal library number on the book. What is this?”

Inside the book was a slip of paper indicating that it was due back at the Warren library on Dec. 4, 1974, Hildebrandt said.

## Remains of missing man found in buried truck

**IL** EAST MOLINE — Human remains discovered three months ago in a pickup truck in the Mississippi River have been identified as a man who was reported missing in

2019, Illinois authorities said.

“The East Moline Police Department continues to investigate this incident as a homicide,” Chief Jeff Ramsey said in a written statement.

The remains were identified as Daniel Claeys, a local man who was in his early 30s when his family said he was missing in 2019. The pickup truck was reported stolen in 2017.

The vehicle, buried in deep mud, was found in September in the Mississippi River near a boat ramp in East Moline. DNA helped investigators determine the identity of the remains.

He said investigators will continue to try to solve Claeys’ disappearance and death.

## Police search for whoever discarded emaciated dog

**IA** DES MOINES — Police are trying to find out who taped a bulldog inside a trash bag and abandoned him in Des Moines.

The emaciated dog was found near a railroad viaduct with his head sticking out of a black plastic garbage bag. The dog was unable to walk because the bag was secured with tape.

Police spokesperson Sgt. Paul Parizek said in a statement that the man who found the dog said the bag caught his attention because it appeared to be moving.

Parizek said the dog is slowly recovering. When the dog was found, he weighed only about 23 pounds, according to the veterinary staff who are caring for him.

Investigators hope someone will recognize the dog and help lead them to whoever discarded him.

— From wire reports

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# Mavericks, Warriors break NBA 3-point mark with combined 48

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Dallas Mavericks and Golden State Warriors combined for an NBA-record 48 3-pointers made Sunday night.

Golden State hit 27 and Dallas made 21 in the Mavericks' 143-133 victory at Chase Center.

Klay Thompson connected for seven of Dallas' 3-pointers facing his former team for the second time in just more than a month, and longtime Splash Brother Stephen Curry also hit seven. Mavs star Luka Dončić shot 6 for 11 from deep on the way to his 80th career triple-double that featured a season-high 45 points.

At 2,549 career 3s, Thompson moved within 11 of tying Reggie Miller for fifth on the career list. Damian Lillard will be the next person for Thompson to chase — Lillard is fourth with 2,683.

Curry is the career leader with 3,832, followed by James Harden (3,010) and Ray Allen (2,973).

**Timberwolves 106, Spurs**

**92:** Anthony Edwards had 26 points and visiting Minnesota rolled past San Antonio.

Victor Wembanyama had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs.

**Pacers 119, Pelicans 104:** Pascal Siakam scored 22 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 21 points and 10 assists to lead host Indiana past struggling New Orleans.

Brandon Boston scored 20 points to lead five Pelicans in double figures.

**Celtics 112, Wizards 98:** Jayson Tatum had 28 points and 12 rebounds as visiting Boston cruised to a victory over Washington.

Tatum had missed two of the Celtics' previous four games with a knee issue. He helped Boston win its seventh straight over the Wizards and third in Washington this season.

Jordan Poole led the Wizards with 21 points, and Bilal Coulibaly added 19. Washington has lost three in a row and 16 of 17.

**Nicks 100, Magic 91:** Jalen

Brunson scored 31 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 points and 22 rebounds and visiting New York beat Orlando.

Moritz Wagner led the Magic with a career-high 32 points in Orlando's first homecourt loss of the season.

**Suns 116, Trail Blazers 109:** Devin Booker scored 28 points and host Phoenix beat Portland to extend the Trail Blazers' losing streak to six games.

Anfernee Simons scored 20 points to lead Portland. Jerami Grant and reserve Deni Avdija scored 17 apiece.

**Lakers 116, Grizzlies 110:** Anthony Davis had 40 points and 16 rebounds, LeBron James scored 18 in his return and host Los Angeles beat Memphis.

James had eight rebounds, eight assists and five turnovers in 34 minutes after missing the previous two games because of a left foot injury. He was away from the team most of last week due to personal reasons.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 25 points for the Grizzlies.

## Iowa State tops Omaha

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Keshon Gilbert scored 16 points to help lead No. 3 Iowa State to an 83-51 win over Omaha on Sunday.

The Cyclones (9-1) started the game going back and forth with the Mavericks after committing eight turnovers, but were able to get on track after ending the half on a 20-2 run.

Joshua Jefferson and Milan Momcilovic each contributed 13 points and two steals for Iowa State.

Tamin Lipsey added 11 points and Nate Heise scored 10 points off the bench for the Cyclones.

Tony Osburn led Omaha (4-9) with 13 points, while Isaac Ondekane added 12. Marquel Sutton, who came into the game averaging a team-best 16.2 points per game, was held to three.

The Cyclones scored at least 80 points for a program-record 10th straight game and won their 33rd straight home non-conference game.

Five Iowa State players scored in double figures, and one of them was not season scoring leader Curtis Jones. He was held to four points but had season highs with six assists and three steals.

**No. 12 Oregon 79, Stephen F. Austin 61:** Brandon Angel had 15 points and six rebounds as the Ducks beat the Lumberjacks.

Angel, a 6-foot-9 senior transfer from Stanford, was 4 for 5 from the field and 6 for 7 from the line for Oregon (10-1), which bounced back from its first loss of the season against UCLA last weekend.

Supreme Cook and Jadrian Tracey scored 14 points apiece for the Ducks while Nate Bittle added 13 points in 18 minutes before fouling out.

Matt Hayman led SFA (5-6) with 17 points while Keon Thompson added 11.

Oregon shot 47.8% from the field in the first half to take a 37-23 lead.

## Bedard's late goal lifts Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Connor Bedard scored with 54 seconds left and Arvid Soderblom made 30 saves, helping the Chicago Blackhawks beat the New York Islanders 5-3 on Sunday.

Teuvo Teravainen had a goal and two assists for the Blackhawks in the opener of a three-game homestand.

Chicago had dropped seven of eight, including a 4-1 loss at New Jersey on Saturday.

**Maple Leafs 5, Sabres 3:** John Tavares scored twice as part of a second-period outburst and added an empty netter for his 14th career hat trick as host Toronto battled back from a 3-1

deficit to pick up a victory over Buffalo.

Max Domi and Nicholas Robertson added a goal and an assist each for the Maple Leafs (19-10-2).

**Hurricanes 4, Blue Jackets 1:** Dustin Tokarski made 27 saves in his first NHL appearance in nearly 22 months to help host Carolina beat Columbus.

Tokarski, 35, appeared in five games this season with Chicago in the American Hockey League before joining the Hurricanes, his sixth NHL team.

Dmitri Voronkov scored for the Blue Jackets, and Elvis Merzlikins made 24 saves. Columbus has lost four straight.

**Blues 3, Rangers 2:** Joel Hofer made 26 saves, Robert Thomas had a goal and an assist and host St. Louis beat reeling New York.

Brett Berard and Will Cuyll scored for New York in the third. The Rangers have lost 10 of their last 13 games.

**Golden Knights 3, Wild 2:** Victor Olofsson had his second two-goal game of the season, helping visiting Vegas to a win over Minnesota.

Kirill Kaprizov scored twice for the Wild, one day after a two-goal effort in a win over Philadelphia. He is now tied with Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl for most goals in the league (22).



# Packers end Seahawks' streak at 4

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Romeo Doubs improbably pulled in his second touchdown catch of the night from Jordan Love, sealing a decisive victory for the Packers and moving them closer to the postseason.

Love threw for 229 yards and the two TDs to Doubs, and Green Bay ended the Seattle Seahawks' four-game winning streak with a 30-13 victory Sunday night.

Josh Jacobs ran for 94 yards and a touchdown for the Packers (10-4), who have won eight of 10. Brandon McManus kicked three field goals.

The Seahawks (8-6) lost quarterback Geno Smith to a knee injury in the third quarter.

Smith was hit low by Green Bay linebacker Edgerrin Cooper and threw his helmet to the ground after he limped off the field. He was replaced by Sam Howell, who had just one previous snap for Seattle.

Smith completed 15 of 19 passes for 149 yards with an interception, and Howell went 5 of 14 for 24 yards and a pick.

**Commanders 20, Saints 19:** Jayden Daniels threw two first-half touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin, and visiting Washington narrowly held off a rally by Spencer Rattler and New Orleans, winning when the Saints failed on a 2-point conversion with no time left.

Daniels, returning to play in Louisiana a year after winning the Heisman Trophy with LSU, completed 25 of 31 passes for 226 yards. He also ran for 66 yards, highlighted by a first-down scramble on third-and-14 to set up a third-quarter field goal by the recently signed Greg Joseph that put the Commanders (9-5) ahead 17-0.

Rattler relieved starting quarterback Jake Haener and nearly carried New Orleans (5-9) to victory. After Joseph missed a 54-yard field goal with 1:55 to go, Rattler led a 56-yard

drive and threw a 1-yard TD pass to Foster Moreau as time expired.

**Chiefs 21, Browns 7:** Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes before leaving in the fourth quarter with an ankle injury, Xavier Worthy ran for a score and visiting Kansas City finally didn't have to sweat out the final minutes with a victory over mistake-prone Cleveland.

Mahomes connected for TDs in the first half with Juju Smith-Schuster and Noah Gray as the Chiefs (13-1) built a 21-0 lead and then slogged their way through an ugly second half.

The Browns (3-11) tried to put up a fight, but had six turnovers. Other than a 62-yard TD run from Jerome Ford, Cleveland had few offensive highlights and too many self-inflicted mis-cues.

**Bengals 37, Titans 27:** Joe Burrow threw for 271 yards with three touchdowns for a franchise record 36 as visiting Cincinnati improved its faint playoff hopes by thumping Tennessee.

The Bengals (6-8) notched the 400th regular-season victory in franchise history. They need to win out to extend their streak of winning seasons to four straight no matter where they wind up in the AFC playoff chase.

The Titans (3-11) benched Will Levis after his NFL-high fourth pick-6 this season and fourth turnover of the game. Mason Rudolph looked ready to lead a rally until he was picked off by Josh Newton.

**Cowboys 30, Panthers 14:** Cooper Rush threw for 214 yards and a career-high three TD passes, visiting Dallas forced four Bryce Young turnovers and sacked the second-year quarterback six times as the Cowboys defeated Carolina for their third win in the past four games.

CeeDee Lamb had nine catches for 116 yards, including a 14-yard TD reception, and Ri-

co Dowdle ran for a career high 149 yards on 25 carries to become the first undrafted running back to surpass 100 yards rushing in three straight games since Houston's Arian Foster.

The Panthers (3-11) came in as the favorite for the first time in nearly two full years, but it was all Dallas (6-8) for most of the game.

**Jets 32, Jaguars 25:** Davante Adams caught nine passes from Aaron Rodgers for 198 yards and two touchdowns — all in the second half — and New York rallied to beat host Jacksonville (3-11) to end a four-game skid.

It was vintage Adams, who became the 12th player in NFL history with 100 receiving touchdowns. And vintage Rodgers, who threw for 289 yards and three scores as the Jets (4-10) topped 30 points for the first time this season. The 41-year-old quarterback also led New York with 45 yards rushing.

**Ravens 35, Giants 14:** Lamar Jackson tied his career high by throwing five touchdown passes in a near-perfect performance that led visiting Baltimore to a victory over New York, sending the Giants to a franchise-record-tying ninth straight loss.

Coming off a bye week, the Ravens (9-5) moved closer to a playoff berth. New York (2-12) is winless in eight games at MetLife Stadium.

Jackson finished 21 of 25 for 290 yards and had a quarterback rating of 154.6, just short of the NFL maximum of 158.3. It was the 27-year-old's sixth game with five TD passes in his seven seasons and his second this year.

**Texans 20, Dolphins 12:** Nico Collins had two touchdown receptions and host Houston's defense forced four turnovers, highlighted by two fourth-quarter interceptions by Derek Stingley, in a win over Miami.

It's the second straight victory for the Texans (9-5), who

clinched the AFC South title for a second straight season.

Collins had a 6-yard TD reception in the second quarter and his second 6-yard scoring grab made it 20-6 in the third. That score was set up by a 35-yard run by Dare Ogunbowale on a fake punt.

**Cardinals 30, Patriots 17:** James Conner ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, offensive lineman Jonah Williams recovered a fumble for the first score of his NFL career and host Arizona used a stellar defensive performance to beat New England.

The Cardinals (7-7) stayed on the fringe of the playoff hunt and snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Patriots (3-11) have lost four straight.

**Buccaneers 40, Chargers 17:** Baker Mayfield threw for 288 yards and four touchdown passes, Mike Evans had a season-high 159 receiving yards and two scores and visiting Tampa Bay dominated the second half en route to a victory over Los Angeles.

The NFC South-leading Buccaneers (8-6) trailed 17-10 late in the second quarter before scoring on five consecutive drives.

**Broncos 31, Colts 13:** Linebacker Nik Bonitto foiled a trick play by stepping in front of quarterback Anthony Richardson and hijacking Adonai Mitchell's lateral pass, then racing 50 yards for a touchdown that sealed host Denver's victory over Indianapolis.

The Broncos (9-5) strengthened their grip on an AFC wild-card berth that would end a playoff drought dating to 2016. They began defense of their Super Bowl 50 title that season with a 4-0 start, which was the last time they sat four games above .500.

The Colts (6-8) blew an early 10-0 lead and a chance to tighten the AFC wild-card race.

# Allen, Bills stop Lions' winning streak at 11

Associated Press

DETROIT — Josh Allen took a shotgun snap, moved up in the pocket and backed up, rolled left and threw right.

It was just another play, a 28-yard pass to James Cook, in the latest sensational performance by the potential NFL MVP.

Allen ran for two scores in the first quarter and threw two touchdown passes in the second half, leading the Buffalo Bills to a 48-42 victory Sunday that snapped the Detroit Lions' franchise-record 11-game winning streak.

The dual-threat quarterback extended a number of plays, buying time with his feet to find open receivers against a banged-up defense that had to respect his ability to pass and run.

"Scramble drills are one of our best plays," Allen said.

He has a lot to do with that.

Allen was 23 of 34 for a season-high 362 yards with touchdown passes to Khalil Shakir

and Ray Davis. He ran 11 times for 68 yards and two scores a week after being the first NFL player to throw and run for three touchdowns in a regular-season game.

"He poses a huge issue," Detroit coach Dan Campbell said.

The 6-foot-5, 237-pound Allen extended a league record by throwing for multiple TDs and rushing for more than one score for the sixth time in his career.

The AFC East-champion Bills (11-3) have won eight of nine, including a victory against the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs.

"It's rare air up there with the best teams," Buffalo coach Sean McDermott said. "That's how we're going to have to play every week moving forward."

Jared Goff matched a career high by throwing five touchdown passes for the NFC North-leading Lions (12-2), whose loss gives Minnesota a chance to pull into a tie for the division lead with a victory against Chicago

on Monday night at home.

The Bills extended their franchise record with 30-plus points in their eighth straight game — becoming the first team since the 2013 Denver Broncos to pull off the feat — and scored the most points against Detroit this season.

Coming off a 44-42 setback against the Los Angeles Rams, Buffalo was not as effective on defense.

Goff's fifth TD pass came with 12 seconds left when he connected with Jameson Williams from 3 yards, but the Lions couldn't recover the onside kick to set up a game-ending Hail Mary try.

The Bills joined the 1966 New York Giants as the only teams in NFL history to score 40-plus points and give up at least 40 points in consecutive games.

Allen's dazzling talents were the difference in a potential Super Bowl preview.

He threw a 33-yard pass to Ty Johnson on his second snap and

converted a third down with another throw to the former Detroit running back, picking up another 24 yards, after rolling right and showing patience before passing to set up a 1-yard sneak.

"We're watching an incredible player play incredibly consistent," McDermott said.

McDermott chose to go for it on fourth-and-2 from his 49 and Allen found Johnson wide open for a 31-yard catch to set up Cook's 6-yard TD run to restore a two-touchdown lead midway through the second quarter.

After Jahmyr Gibbs scored his first of two touchdowns early in the fourth quarter to pull the Lions within 10 points, Campbell opted for an onside kick that Buffalo's Mack Hollins returned 38 yards to set up another score for the Bills.

"Now we know where we stand against one of the AFC's best teams," Campbell said. "Today, that wasn't good enough."

## Eagles top Steelers for team-best 10th straight win

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jalen Hurts absorbed the shots when the Eagles' recent anemic passing attack was panned by his own star wide receivers. Hurts and A.J. Brown — one of those receivers who brought the complaints to a boil — then had their relationship dissected and thrown under the bus by a teammate, the type of locker room criticism that can unravel a franchise.

Or maybe the touchy internal evaluation was exactly the kind of incentive Philadelphia needed to flex its superiority in a cross-state showdown with a playoff-bound opponent.

"Every opportunity to get better, you use," coach Nick Sirianni said. "I'm not for one minute saying that all the turmoil on the outside was a good thing. We want to make sure that we're locked into what we're doing, and that's what I felt like."

Hurts threw touchdown passes to Brown and DeVonta Smith to mute scrutiny of the Eagles' offense, and Philadelphia won its franchise-record 10th straight game, 27-13 over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday.

"So that's what you all wanted to see?" said Hurts, who confirmed he was playing with a broken finger on his non-throwing hand.

Philly's recent friction wasn't fan- or media-driven at all — like a horror movie, the sounds were coming from inside the house.

Hurts and the Eagles' offense made the big plays a week after both Smith and Brown griped about a lack of catches in a win over Carolina. Later in the week, injured defensive end Brandon Graham appeared on a Philadelphia sports radio station and suggested there were personal issues at play between Hurts and Brown.

Hurts, who threw for 290 yards after not topping 200 in any of the last three games, tried to squash any perceived in-house dissention on the opening drive. He connected with Smith twice and Brown once, leading to Jake Elliott's 34-yard field goal.

"Scrutiny is never-ending. It's nothing new," Hurts said. "That's something that I find a thrill in. I appreciate being told I can't and that we can't. I know that I lead this team, and it takes a lot out of it. It demands a lot out of you."

Brown, who walked gingerly on the sideline late in the game, had eight catches for 110 yards, and Smith had 11 for 109 yards a week after they combined for only eight catches and 80 yards.

Eagles running back Saquon Barkley's chase of the NFL season rushing record was slowed when he ran for just 65 yards on 19 carries. Barkley, who still leads the NFL with 1,688 yards, took a low hit from Pittsburgh's Minkah Fitzpatrick and missed most of the second quarter. Barkley said his right knee was fine and he wasn't injured on Fitzpatrick's hit.

AFC North-leading Pittsburgh (10-4) lost for the second time in nine games but clinched a playoff spot thanks to losses by Miami and Indianapolis.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said the playoff berth wasn't all that important under the circumstances.

"Not as I stand here today. We had a game to play today. We wanted to win it and we didn't," he said. "Some of that other stuff is less relevant to us."