

Missiles rain down on Kyiv in retaliation

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia retaliated Monday for what it claimed was a Ukrainian terrorist attack on a critical bridge by unleashing its biggest and most widespread attacks against Ukraine in months. The lethal barrage against multiple cities smashed civilian targets, knocking out power and water, shattering buildings and killing at least 11 people.

Ukraine's Emergency Service said 64 people were wounded in the morning rush hour attacks that Russia launched from the air, sea and land against at least 14 regions, spanning from Lviv in the west to Kharkiv in the east. Many of the attacks occurred far from the war's front lines.

Though Russia said missiles targeted military and energy facilities, some struck civilian areas while people were heading to work and school. One hit a playground in downtown Kyiv and another struck a university.

Andriy Yermak, a senior adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said the strikes had no "practical military sense" and that Russia's goal was to cause a "humanitarian catastrophe."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his forces used "precision weapons" to target key energy infrastructure and military command facilities in retaliation for Kyiv's "terrorist" actions — a reference to Ukraine's

attempts to repel Moscow's invasion forces, including an attack Saturday on a key bridge between Russia and the annexed Crimean Peninsula that Putin called a "terrorist act" masterminded by Ukrainian special services.

Putin vowed a "tough" and "proportionate" response should Ukraine carry out further attacks that threaten Russia's security. "No one should have any doubts about it," he told Russia's Security Council by video.

The Russian president has been under intense domestic pressure to take more aggressive action to stop a largely successful Ukrainian counteroffensive and to react forcefully to Saturday's attack on the Kerch bridge, whose construction he used to cement his 2014 annexation of Crimea.

Putin's increasingly frequent descriptions of Ukraine's actions as terrorists could set the stage for even more bold and draconian actions. But in Monday's speech, Putin — whose partial troop mobilization order last month triggered an exodus of hundreds of thousands of men of fighting age from Russia — stopped short of an expected escalation from what he has called a "special military operation" to a counterterrorism campaign or martial law.

Moscow's war in Ukraine is approaching its eight-month milestone, and the Kremlin has been reeling from humiliating battle-

field setbacks in areas of eastern Ukraine it is trying to annex.

The head of Ukraine's law enforcement said Monday's attacks nationwide damaged 70 infrastructure sites, of which 29 are critical. The Ukrainian General Staff said 84 cruise missiles and 24 drones were used. Ukrainian forces shot down 56 aerial targets, it said. Blasts struck in the capital's Shevchenko district, a large area in the center that includes the historic old town and government offices, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Some of the strikes hit near the government quarter in the capital's symbolic heart, where parliament and other major landmarks are located. A glass-covered office tower was significantly damaged, with most of its blue-tinted windows blown out.

Zelenskyy, in a video address, referred to the rush hour timing of Monday's attacks, saying Russia "chose such a time and such targets on purpose to inflict the most damage."

The strikes sent residents of Ukraine's two largest cities — Kyiv and Kharkiv — into bomb shelters, including subway stations.

While air raid sirens have continued throughout the war in cities across the country, in Kyiv and elsewhere, many Ukrainians had begun to ignore their warnings after months of calm.

Kim touts new missile, calls tests warning to US

Bloomberg News

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged further shows of his nuclear capabilities to deter the United States after two weeks of military drills in which he claimed to launch a new ballistic missile and demonstrate tactical atomic strikes.

Kim described a series of exercises since Sept. 25, which included the first missile fired over Japan in five years, as a "severe warning" to the U.S. and its allies, the state-run Korean Central News Agency said

Monday. The drills included simulated nuclear strikes on airports in South Korea and rocket attacks on seaports, the report said, describing the moves as responses to U.S.-led naval exercises.

The weapon that was fired over Japan into the Western Pacific on Oct. 4 was a "new-type ground-to-ground intermediate-range ballistic missile," KCNA said.

The advances couldn't immediately be verified, and North Korea hasn't clearly

demonstrated the technology needed to arm and deploy tactical nuclear weapons. The U.S. and South Korea have warned that Kim could be preparing for his first nuclear test since 2017, something that would be necessary to prove that capability.

The report shed light on Kim's activities during an unusual monthlong absence from state media, which prompted speculation about health and whereabouts. The publication came on a day that North Korea

celebrates the founding of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, an event that is often marked with displays of military might.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan have stepped up military drills in the region in response to Kim's nuclear moves, including passing a law last month that expanded the circumstances under which the regime could use atomic weapons. Kim has so far refused President Joe Biden's overtures to resume nuclear talks stalled for more than three years.

Troops address mental health hurdles

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After finishing a tour in Afghanistan in 2013, Dionne Williamson felt emotionally numb. More warning signs appeared during several years of subsequent overseas postings.

“It’s like I lost me somewhere,” said Williamson, a Navy lieutenant commander who experienced disorientation, depression, memory loss and chronic exhaustion. “I went to my captain and said, ‘Sir, I need help. Something’s wrong.’”

As the Pentagon seeks to confront spiraling suicide rates in the military ranks, Williamson’s experiences shine a light on the realities for service members seeking mental health help. For most, simply acknowledging their difficulties can be intimidating. And what comes next can be frustrating and dispiriting.

Williamson, 46, eventually

found stability through a monthlong hospitalization and a therapeutic program that incorporates horseback riding. But she had to fight for years to get the help she needed. “It’s a wonder how I made it through,” she said.

In March, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the creation of an independent committee to review the military’s mental health and suicide prevention programs. According to Defense Department data, suicides among active-duty service members increased by more than 40% between 2015 and 2020. The numbers jumped by 15% in 2020 alone. In longtime suicide hot spot postings such as Alaska — service members and their families contend with isolation and a harsh climate — the rate has doubled.

The Pentagon did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But Austin has publicly acknowledged that the Pentagon’s

current mental health offerings — including a Defense Suicide Prevention Office established in 2011 — have proven insufficient.

“It is imperative that we take care of all our teammates and continue to reinforce that mental health and suicide prevention remain a key priority,” Austin wrote in March. “Clearly we have more work to do.”

Many soldiers fear the stigma of admitting to mental health issues within the internal military culture of self-sufficiency. And those who seek help often find that stigma is not only real, but compounded by bureaucratic obstacles.

Despite the on-base presence of “tons of briefings and brochures on suicide and PTSD,” Williamson said she found herself fighting for years to get time off and therapy. Eventually, she entered a monthlong in-patient program in Arizona. When she re-

turned, a therapist recommended equine-assisted therapy, which proved to be a breakthrough.

Now Williamson is a regular at the Cloverleaf Equine Center in Clifton, Va., where riding sessions can be combined with a variety of therapeutic practices and exercises. For Williamson, the regular riding sessions have helped stabilize her. She still struggles, and she said her long campaign for treatment has damaged her relationship with multiple superior officers. She’s currently on limited duty and isn’t sure if she’ll retire when she hits her 20-year anniversary in March.

Nevertheless, she says, the equine therapy has helped her feel optimistic for the first time in recent memory.

“Now even if I can’t get out of bed, I make sure to come here,” she said. “If I didn’t come here, I don’t know where I would even be.”

Years of combat hardened Ukrainian army into a force

Bloomberg News

When Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered unmarked troops to Ukraine in 2014, first in Crimea and then the eastern borderlands of Donbas, they were better equipped, trained and organized — and they crushed their opponents.

Eight years on, the roles are reversed. That’s due to many factors. One cause, however, stands out: The very different ways in which two armies both with Soviet roots have learned to fight. People close to the Russian defense ministry said they recognized the efficiency of Ukraine’s more devolved command structure from the early stages of the war.

After its 2015 defeat, Ukraine’s regular army had to be rebuilt al-

most from scratch. By the time Andriy Zagorodnyuk, a civilian entrepreneur, was parachuted into the ministry to drive reform in 2015, it was clear to him that a Russian plan to “demilitarize” Ukraine had been underway for years.

The military was among the last institutions in Ukraine to change. Still, according to Zagorodnyuk, the reforms were “transformational.” Add NATO training, the development of a new U.S.-style corps of noncommissioned officers with decision-making powers and accorded greater respect, plus eight years of experience fighting in Donbas, and the profile of Ukraine’s military has become dramatically different from Russia’s.

Ukrainian nuclear plant reconnected to power grid

Associated Press

BERLIN — An external power line to Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant — the biggest in Europe — was repaired on Sunday after shelling disconnected the facility from the grid and forced it to resort to emergency diesel generators, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said the 750-kilovolt line was reconnected to the plant on Sunday evening following repair work by Ukrainian engineers. That enabled the plant to start switching off the generators that had kicked in to provide it with power after the line — its last connection to the grid — was cut early Saturday.

IAEA Director-General Rafael

Grossi tweeted that the reconnection was “a temporary relief in a still-untenable situation.”

The plant has been held by Russian forces for months, but operated by Ukrainian employees. All six reactors at the site are shut down but they still require electricity for cooling and other safety functions.

Grossi has spent weeks pushing for the establishment of a “nuclear safety and security protection zone” around the plant. He says he will travel to Russia and then see Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an effort to realize that plan.

Grossi condemned attacks “in areas that could affect the safety and security” of the plant, including in nearby Enerhodar.

Fla. coast shifts to rebuild phase after Ian's wreckage

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — An army of 42,000 utility workers has restored electricity to more than 2.5 million businesses and homes in Florida since Hurricane Ian's onslaught, and Brenda Palmer's place is among them. By the government's count, she and her husband, Ralph, are part of a success story.

Yet turning on the lights in a wrecked mobile home that's likely beyond repair and reeks of dried river mud and mold isn't much solace to people who lost a lifetime of work in a few hours of wind, rain and rising seawater. Sorting through soggy old photos of her kids in the shaded ruins of her carport, Palmer couldn't help but cry.

"Everybody says, 'You can't save everything, mom,'" she said. "You know, it's my life. It's MY life. It's gone."

With the major search for victims over and a large swath of Florida's southwest coast settling in for the long slog of recovering from its first direct hit from a major hurricane in a century, residents are bracing for what will be months, if not years, of work. Mourning lost heirlooms will be hard; so will fights with insurance companies and decisions about what to do next.

Around the corner from the Palmers in Coach Light Manor, a retirement community of 179 mobile homes that was flooded by two creeks and a canal, a sad realization hit Susan Colby sometime between the first time she saw her soggy home after Ian and Sunday, when she was picking through its remains.

"I'm 86 years old and I'm homeless," she said. "It's just crazy. I mean, never in my

life did I dream that I wouldn't have a home. But it's gone."

Officials have blamed more than 100 deaths, most of them in southwest Florida, on Ian, a powerful Category 4 storm with 155 mph winds. It was the third-deadliest storm to hit the U.S. mainland this century behind Hurricane Katrina, which left about 1,400 people dead, and Hurricane Sandy, which killed 233 despite weakening to a tropical storm just before landfall.

While Gov. Ron DeSantis has heaped praise on his administration for the early phases of the recovery, including getting running water and lights back on and erecting a temporary bridge to Pine Island, much more remains to be done. There are still mountains of debris to remove; it's hard to find a road that isn't lined with waterlogged carpet, ruined furniture, moldy mattresses and pieces of homes.

In a region full of retirees, many of whom moved South to get away from the chill of Northern winters, Luther Marth worries that it might be more difficult for some to recover from the psychological effects of Ian than the physical destruction.

"I'm 88 years old. People my age struggle," said Marth, who counts himself and his wife, Jacqueline, among the lucky despite losing a car and thousands of dollars worth of fishing gear, tools and more when their garage filled with more than 5 feet of water.

"If you got wiped out financially you don't want to start over again, you don't have the will to start again," Marth said. "So those are the people my heart breaks for."

Vegas stabbings suspect solicited work in LA before

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The suspect in a stabbing rampage on the Las Vegas Strip that left two people dead and six injured was in Los Angeles soliciting employment from strangers two days before the attack, according to a California TV station.

In a video taken Tuesday by photographer Jorge Lopez for NBCLA sister station Telemundo 52, a man who identified himself as Yoni Barrios approached Lopez outside Los Angeles City Hall and asked for help, saying he had lost his home and everything he had.

"He kept telling me, 'I just want an opportunity, I just want to start from scratch,'" said Lopez, who was in downtown Los Angeles on assignment at the time.

The TV station said Lopez didn't realize the significance of the video until Barrios' arrest Thursday in Las Vegas.

The rampage began when Barrios allegedly attacked a group of four showgirl performers outside a casino with a 12-inch knife, police said.

Barrios had approached the women for a photo on a pedestrian bridge, but one showgirl told police she was uncomfortable with his proposal and backed away.

Witnesses said Barrios charged at the woman and stabbed her in the back as she ran from him. The suspect then allegedly stabbed another woman before running down the Strip and looking for groups of people so he could "let the anger out," police said.

Barrios thought the showgirls were laughing at him and making fun of his clothing, according to the arrest report.

Prosecutors seek prison for rioter's attack on journalist

Associated Press

Federal prosecutors on Sunday recommended a prison sentence of about four years for a Pennsylvania man who pleaded guilty to assaulting an Associated Press photographer and using a stun gun against police officers during a mob's attack on the U.S. Capitol.

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss is scheduled to sentence Alan Byerly on Oct. 21 for his attack on AP photographer John Minchillo and police during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in Washington.

Sentencing guidelines recommend a prison term ranging from 37 to 46 months.

Prosecutors are seeking a sentence of at least 46 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. Byerly's attorney has until Friday to submit a sentencing recommendation.

The judge isn't bound by any of the sentencing recommendations.

Byerly purchased a stun gun before he traveled from his home in Fleetwood, Pa., to Washington for the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6. Leaving the rally before

then-President Donald Trump finished speaking, Byerly went to the Capitol and joined other rioters in using a large metal Trump sign as a battering ram against barricades and police officers, prosecutors said.

After that, he went to the Capitol's Lower West Terrace, where he and other rioters attacked Minchillo, who was wearing a lanyard with AP lettering. Byerly is one of at least three people charged with assaulting Minchillo, whose assault was captured on video by a colleague.

Taiwan leader tells China war 'not an option'

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China's threats of military action against Taiwan are "absolutely not an option" and will "only push our two sides further from each other," Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Monday.

Speaking on Taiwan's National Day, Tsai said China should not mistake Taiwan's multiparty democratic political system for weakness and "attempt to divide Taiwanese society."

"I want to make clear to the Beijing authorities that armed confrontation is absolutely not an option for our two sides," Tsai said. "Only by respecting the commitment of the Taiwanese people to our sovereignty, democracy, and freedom can there be a foundation for resuming constructive interaction across the Taiwan Strait," she said.

Fighter jets and a Chinook helicopter displaying Taiwan's flag flew overhead while the band from Taipei's First Girls' High School played hits ranging from the Beatles to Lady Gaga.

National Day festivities included international guests such as Palau President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., whose country's blue and yellow flag flew alongside Taiwan's red

banner with its blue square and white star.

The holiday evokes Taiwan's endurance as a separate political entity with a thriving democracy and free press. Generally known as "Double Ten" in Taiwan, it commemorates a 1911 uprising by troops in the Chinese city of Wuhan that eventually led to the downfall of the Qing Dynasty. China's Communist Party swept the Nationalist government from the mainland amid civil war in 1949 and continues to claim the island.

In response, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reiterated China's long-held stance that "Taiwan is not an independent state and has no so-called president."

"The root cause of the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait is that the (ruling Democratic Progressive Party) authorities have been clinging to Taiwan independence and colluding with external forces to make provocations," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing. "We are ready to create a wide space for peaceful reunification, but will never leave any room for secessionist activities of Taiwan independence."

Tsai's speech focused largely on Taiwan's success in strengthening the social

security net for an aging society and growing its high-tech economy despite the pandemic.

But she also emphasized Taiwan's efforts to protect itself, with increased imports of foreign hardware, revitalization of its domestic arms industry and upgraded training for reserves.

Tsai singled out Taiwan's submarine development program and the delivery of its first domestically developed and constructed 10,000-ton landing platform dock, Yushan, as particular successes.

Russia's war on Ukraine has refocused attention on China and on ways Taiwan can resist a much larger and more powerful foe equipped with the world's largest standing army and a huge arsenal of missiles.

That was further underscored when China launched threatening military exercises around the island in response to a visit to Taiwan in early August by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Despite Beijing's threats, U.S. and other foreign diplomats have continued to visit Taiwan and Washington's commitment to Taiwan's defense appears only to have grown.

Iran refinery workers protest woman's death

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Workers at the site of a major complex of refineries crucial for Iran's massive offshore natural gas field protested Monday over the death of a 22-year-old woman, online videos appeared to show.

The demonstrations at Asaluyeh mark the first time the unrest surrounding the death of Mahsa Amini threatened the coffers of Iran's long-sanctioned theocratic government — its oil and gas industry.

While it remains unclear if other workers will follow, the protests come as demonstrations rage on in cities, towns and villages across Iran over the Sept. 16 death of Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police in Teh-

ran.

Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating.

Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

From the capital, Tehran, and elsewhere, online videos have emerged despite authorities disrupting the internet.

Videos on Monday showed university and high school students demonstrating and chanting, with some women and girls marching through the streets without headscarves as the protests continue into a fourth week.

Bernanke shares Nobel for research on banks

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — This year's Nobel Prize in economic sciences has been awarded to the former chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke, and two U.S.-based economists, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig, "for research on banks and financial crises."

The prize was announced Monday by the Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

The committee said their work had shown in their research "why avoiding bank collapses is vital."

With their research in the early 1980s, the laureates laid the foundations for regulating financial markets and dealing with financial crises, the panel said.

Bernanke, 68, who is now with The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., examined the Great Depression of the 1930s, showing how dangerous bank runs — when panicked savers withdraw their deposits — can be.

Diamond, 68, based at the University of Chicago, and Dybvig, 67, who is at Washington University in St. Louis, showed how government guarantees on deposits can prevent a spiraling of financial crises.

"The laureates' insights have improved our ability to avoid both serious crises and expensive bailouts," said Tore Ellingsen, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences.

Nobel prizes carry a cash award of nearly \$900,000 and will be handed out on Dec. 10.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Deputies kill man after wife warns of ambush

AZ BLACK CANYON CITY — Sheriff's deputies fatally shot a man during an exchange of gunfire outside his home in a remote area north of Phoenix after his wife warned in a 911 call that he might try to ambush them, the Yavapai County sheriff's office said Saturday.

The sheriff's office said it has asked the Arizona Department of Public Safety to investigate Friday night's officer-involved shooting of Thomas Henzler in Black Canyon City.

Deputies responded to the home about 45 miles from Phoenix after Henzler's wife reported at about 10:30 p.m. that he was intoxicated and had fired a bullet into the ceiling, sheriffs said in a statement.

She told the 911 dispatcher her husband knew she would call police and had begun to gather ammunition and set up an ambush on the only access point to the house, a bridge with a remote-operated gate, the statement said.

2nd child dies after crash during funeral procession

OH AKRON — A second child has died following a crash during an Ohio funeral procession for a teenager who died of a suspected drug overdose, an accident followed by two episodes of gunfire that wounded at least one person, authorities said.

Lt. Michael Miller of the Akron police department said the 6-year-old boy was pronounced dead Friday night at a hospital, where he was taken after the Thursday afternoon collision in

Akron.

The Summit County medical examiner's office identified him Saturday as Trevond Walker Jr. and said he died of blunt force injuries to the head. A 12-year-old boy, identified by the medical examiner's office as Tymar Allen, died hours after the crash, also of blunt-force injuries, officials said.

Police said the two cousins were in a car in the procession through Akron led by a marked police cruiser. Police were told that people were hanging out of car windows during the procession before the two-car crash, which fully ejected one of the children and partially ejected the other, Miller said.

Teen, 15, gets arrested in amusement park shooting

PA WEST MIFFLIN — A 15-year-old has been arrested in last month's shooting at a western Pennsylvania amusement park that wounded three people, including two teenagers.

Allegheny County and West Mifflin police said last week that the teenager is being charged as an adult with aggravated assault, reckless endangering and firearms crimes in the Sept. 24 gunfire at Kennywood Park on the opening night of the park's Phantom Fall Fest.

Park officials said the late Saturday night shooting followed an altercation between two groups of teenagers near the Musik Express ride at the park in West Mifflin, southeast of Pittsburgh. A 39-year-old man and two 15-year-old boys were taken to hospitals with leg wounds, authorities said.

Investigators said last week that evidence recovered at the scene indicated there were two

guns fired, one of them by the teenager arrested. He himself was also grazed on the thigh by a bullet, and authorities are searching for a second suspect.

Arrest of officer is 3rd for force within 2 weeks

KS WICHITA — A Wichita police officer was arrested early Saturday on suspicion of drunken driving, become the city's third officer to be apprehended within about two weeks.

Police said in a release that the officer, who was off-duty, is also facing a charge of possession of a gun while intoxicated. The officer, who has been with the department for two years, has been placed on administrative leave while a criminal and internal investigation is conducted, the Wichita Eagle reported.

The incident follows two other arrests of Wichita officers within five days at the end of last month.

A detective and 15-year veteran of the force was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence Sept. 23 after she collided with a city bus downtown. A police recruit was arrested on suspicion of criminal threat Sept. 28 when police responded to a domestic violence call.

City of Jackson agrees to pay overdue garbage bill

MS JACKSON — Mississippi's capital city is heading off the threat of a garbage pile-up by agreeing to pay its overdue bill for collections the past six months.

Even as Jackson struggles with a troubled water system, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and the city council have

been feuding over the garbage contract for the city of 150,000 residents.

Richard's Disposal has picked up Jackson garbage since April without compensation. The company said it would stop collections after Saturday unless it receives payment. City Council president Ashby Foote told The Associated Press on Friday that the city will pay \$4.8 million, and garbage collection will continue.

Lumumba awarded an emergency contract early this year to Richard's after the Jackson council voted multiple times against hiring the New Orleans-based company.

Tsunami hazard maps for 7 counties updated

CA SACRAMENTO — The California Geological Survey has released updated tsunami hazard maps for seven counties to help users determine whether they are in areas at risk for inundation and for planning.

The revised interactive maps released Friday cover San Diego, Santa Cruz, Ventura, Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa counties.

The new maps reflect new data and improved computer modeling since an earlier series of maps was published in 2009, as well as threats from tsunamis originating far away and locally, the Geological Survey said in a news release. In one example of the updates, new modeling for Santa Cruz County shows that a subduction zone earthquake off the Aleutian Islands could unleash a tsunami 18-25 feet above the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, more than double the height suggested in 2009, the agency said.

— From wire reports

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Musgrove dominates Mets, puts Padres in NLDS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a magnificent performance on a memorable night in Padres history, Joe Musgrove brought this one home for San Diego and really stuck it to the New York Mets.

The big right-hander brushed off chants of “Cheater!” after a bizarre spot check by umpires on the mound, pitching his hometown Padres into the next round of the playoffs Sunday with seven innings of one-hit ball in a 6-0 victory over the listless Mets.

“You could see the resolve in his face and the demeanor he had,” San Diego manager Bob Melvin said. “He was on a mission today.”

Trent Grisham hit an RBI single and made a terrific catch in center field that helped the Padres take the best-of-three National League wild-card series 2-1. Austin Nola and Juan Soto each had a two-run single.

San Diego advanced to face the top-seeded Los Angeles Dodgers in a best-of-five Division Series beginning Tuesday — ensuring the Padres will play in front of their home fans in the

postseason for the first time in 16 years when they return to Petco Park for Game 3.

“Can’t wait to get back there. They deserve it,” Melvin said.

It was the fifth time the Padres won a playoff series — and they took this one without star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr., sidelined all season by a wrist injury and PED suspension.

They won a first-round matchup against St. Louis in their own ballpark with no fans permitted after the pandemic-shortened 2020 season before being swept in the Division Series by the eventual World Series champion Dodgers.

For the Mets, a scintillating season ended with a whimper at home in front of empty seats. Baseball’s biggest spenders won 101 games — second-most in franchise history — but were unable to hold off Atlanta in the NL East after sitting atop the division for all but six days.

Relegated to the wild-card round, New York never fully recovered. Max Scherzer got rocked in Game 1 and, after the Mets won Game 2 behind Jacob deGrom, they mustered almost nothing against Musgrove and

finished with one lonely hit.

No. 3 starter Chris Bassitt lasted just four innings, giving up three runs and three hits with three costly walks to batters near the bottom of the order.

Pete Alonso’s leadoff single in the fifth and Starling Marte’s walk to start the seventh were the only baserunners permitted by Musgrove in his first post-season start. He was 0-5 with a 6.33 ERA in five previous starts against the Mets.

Robert Suarez and Josh Hader finished up with perfect relief. After the final out, Padres players and coaches gathered for happy hugs and handshakes on the field as a small but vocal throng of San Diego fans dressed in brown and yellow cheered and chanted “Beat LA! Beat LA!” behind the team’s dugout.

Then the Padres took the party inside their clubhouse — dancing and dousing each other with booze in a loud, raucous celebration.

“They flat-out beat us,” Alonso said.

Musgrove grew up a Padres fan in the San Diego suburbs

and pitched the franchise’s first no-hitter last year in his second start with the team.

He was working on a one-hitter and warming up for the sixth inning Sunday when Mets manager Buck Showalter came out of the dugout and spoke to first base umpire Alfonso Marquez.

“All Buck requested was for us to check for an illegal substance,” Marquez said.

The six umps huddled and then went to the mound. Marquez, the crew chief, felt Musgrove’s glove, cap — even his ears — searching for any unauthorized sticky substances.

“I’ve seen him do it before, checking the pitcher,” Musgrove said, referring to Showalter. “I get it, dude. They’re on their last leg, they’re desperate, they’re doing everything they can to get me out of the game.”

Marquez said the umpires “found nothing.”

Musgrove was allowed to continue, and he worked a 1-2-3 sixth punctuated by a pointed gesture toward the New York dugout.

“It motivated me a little bit, man. It fired me up,” he said.

Bell wins Charlotte race; Larson eliminated from playoffs

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — It was a race of desperation.

For Christopher Bell, who had to win Sunday to stave off elimination from NASCAR’s playoffs.

For reigning NASCAR champion Kyle Larson, who hit the wall and suddenly found his chances of racing for a second consecutive Cup title in serious jeopardy.

For Trackhouse Racing, the feel-good upstart young team hoping to celebrate its 100th start by advancing both its drivers into the third round of NASCAR’s playoffs.

And for Stewart-Haas Racing, which is now under NASCAR investigation for potential race manipulation.

When the checkered flag finally flew, only Bell was celebrating.

His victory in overtime on the road

course at Charlotte Motor Speedway moved him into the round of eight and possibly made him a true title contender. His Joe Gibbs Racing team used the first natural caution of the race — it came with five laps remaining — to bring Bell in for new tires on his Toyota. The fresh Goodyears gave Bell the advantage to drive through the field for his second win of the season and third of his career.

“The task was simple. We knew we had to win,” said Bell, who was the most consistent driver in the first round of the playoffs but found himself 11th in the standings as NASCAR prepared to cut the field from 12 to eight.

“Man, you’ve just got to be there at the end of these things. I keep watching all these races where the fastest car doesn’t always win. We were just there at the

right time. We obviously weren’t in position to win, we rolled the dice, gambled, it paid off for us.”

Larson, meanwhile, was eliminated from the playoffs one year after winning a NASCAR-high 10 races and racking up wins all across the country in sprint cars. He has just two wins this season and finished 35th on Sunday, five laps down, and was bumped out of the playoffs by two points.

“I made way too many mistakes this whole year. You can’t win a championship like that,” said Larson. “No surprise that I made another mistake today and took us out of contention. Just extremely mad at myself. We’ll keep fighting. We’ll come back stronger. We’ll definitely come back stronger and smarter, make better moves out there. Just mad at myself.”

Tucker's leg lifts Ravens to late win

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Ravens essentially have two versions of the victory formation.

One is when the quarterback takes a knee to run out the clock. The other is when Justin Tucker comes on the field to attempt a game-winning kick.

"We've got the GOAT at kicker," Lamar Jackson said, using the acronym for "Greatest of All-Time."

Tucker kicked a 43-yard field goal on the final play to lift the Ravens over the Cincinnati Bengals 19-17 on Sunday night and into sole possession of first place in the AFC North.

Tucker also made a 58-yard kick in the third quarter, and even when the Ravens (3-2) fell behind 17-16 on Joe Burrow's 1-yard sneak with 1:58 remaining, they could feel confident because they only needed a field goal. Tucker's game-winner extended his streak to 61 straight successful field goals in the fourth quarter and overtime.

He is 17-for-17 in his career on attempts in the final minute of regulation.

"What matters in those 1.3 seconds between snap, hold and the kick, are the things that are going to help the kick go through the uprights," Tucker said. "My feelings, my emotions — for 1.3 seconds, they don't really

matter, whether I'm feeling very confident or nervous or even outright afraid. That's partly why I always make it a point to say a brief prayer as I'm lining up to kick — not to ask for results, but to ask for peace and to show gratitude just for sort of being able to be in that moment."

Jackson shook off a rough night passing, leading the Ravens with his arm and his legs on the winning drive. Baltimore blew leads of 21 and 17 points in its previous two home games when it lost to Miami and Buffalo. The Ravens squandered a 10-point lead in this one, but ultimately recovered.

It was a remarkable turnaround for the Baltimore defense, which allowed 41 points in each of two losses last year to the AFC champion Bengals. This time, the Ravens kept Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase mostly under control and pulled off an impressive stand in the third quarter after Cincinnati (2-3) had first-and-goal from the 2.

The Bengals trailed 13-10 when they wasted that opportunity. The key play was a 12-yard loss when Cincinnati tried a reverse pass on second down. A third-down completion put the Bengals back at the 2, but then a shovel pass went incomplete.

The Ravens then drove all the way to the other end of the field for a short field goal that made it 16-10. Tucker's earlier kick

from 58 had broken a 10-all tie. After that one, he stood near midfield and posed in celebration with his arms outstretched.

"I've celebrated in many a humorous way over the years," he said. "Also, you've got to save a little bit for the end of the game too. So I don't want to peak too early."

Baltimore took a 10-0 lead on Jackson's 11-yard scoring pass to Mark Andrews in the second quarter, but the star quarterback was intercepted in Cincinnati territory on his next drive.

The Bengals scored on a 19-yard pass from Burrow to Hayden Hurst, and the game was tied by halftime.

Jackson finished 19-for-32 for 174 yards with a touchdown and an interception, and he rushed 12 times for 58 yards. Burrow also had a TD and a pick and was 24-for-35 for 217 yards.

Baltimore improved to 19-2 in prime-time games at home under coach John Harbaugh.

All three of Cincinnati's defeats this season have been on field goals on the final play.

"We've lost three games on the last play of the game," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "I told the guys, 'We've got to keep taking our shots, and the season will even itself out'"

Eagles stay undefeated, hang on to top Cardinals

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The Philadelphia Eagles are still the NFL's only undefeated team, winning their fifth game in a row thanks to a whole lot of grit and a bit of good fortune.

Jalen Hurts ran for a pair of 1-yard touchdowns and the Eagles held on for a 20-17 victory over Arizona on Sunday after Matt Ammendola's late field-goal attempt for the Cardinals sailed wide right.

"Every win isn't easy," Hurts said. "Personally, I have mixed emotions about the game itself, but we found a way."

The Eagles improved to 5-0 for the first time since 2004, when they won their first seven games and finished 13-3.

The Cardinals never led, but looked as if they would push the game into overtime until Ammendola missed the 43-yarder. The kick looked good for a split second but then veered hard to the right and outside the uprights. Ammendola was active roster be-

cause of a hip injury to starter Matt Prater.

"It honestly felt good," Ammendola said. "Everything felt good off my foot. It's just something that I've got to work on. I'll have to go back to watch it and look at the film."

Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray slid just short of a first down on a second-down run during the final drive, then spiked the ball on third down to force Ammendola's attempt with 22 seconds left. Coach Kliff Kingsbury said he believed Murray had gained a first down on the run, but once he realized it was third down, he still decided spiking the ball was the best option.

The Cardinals had no timeouts and Kingsbury said there were too many things that could have gone wrong if they had tried to run another play.

Philadelphia scored the go-ahead field goal on a grinding 17-play, 70-yard drive that lasted nearly eight minutes. Hurts extended the drive twice with 1-yard runs up the middle on third down, getting a great

push from his offensive line for enough room to dive forward.

"That offensive line is full of warriors," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said.

Cameron Dicker — who was playing in place of the injured Jake Elliott — easily made the 23-yard field goal with 1:42 remaining. Philadelphia's defense kept Arizona's offense out of the end zone on the final drive and then ran off the field celebrating when Ammendola's kick missed.

Hurts completed 26 of 36 passes for 239 yards. He also ran for 61 yards and kept the Eagles' offense in good position, switching a few plays at the line of scrimmage. The biggest audible came on the final drive, when he switched plays and hit tight end Dallas Goedert on 3rd-and-12 for a 16-yard gain.

Arizona (2-3) has lost all three home games this season and eight straight over two seasons — its longest home skid since an eight-game streak from 1956-58 when the franchise was in Chicago.

Allen picks apart Steelers in Bills' win

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Josh Allen made a mental note after seeing receiver Gabe Davis have a bounce in his step a day earlier during the Buffalo Bills' final walk-through session before facing the Steelers.

Perhaps, the quarterback hoped, Davis was finally over any lingering issues of an ankle injury that had limited him over the past three weeks.

Three snaps into what became a 38-3 rout of the Steelers is all it took for Allen to prove his instinct correct.

Facing third-and-10, and backed up at his 2, Allen aired a pass deep down the middle, which Davis caught in stride for a game-opening 98-yard touchdown.

"I kind of got hit right when I threw it, so I didn't see him catch it. I just kind of heard the crowd go crazy," Allen said. "Those ones are cool. It's going to be tough to beat."

It was enough to wow even Stefon Diggs.

"I was like, damn," Diggs said. "I gotta go talk to him. I tell him he's still slow, but that was amazing."

Allen followed what matched the franchise record for longest completion by throwing three more touchdown passes — including a 62-yarder to Davis and 15-yarder to Diggs some two minutes apart — in the first half alone in picking apart a flimsy and injury-depleted secondary.

Following two close calls in splitting its past two outings, Buffalo (4-1) overcame its own injury-depleted offense which was missing three receivers and starting tight end Dawson Knox, to build a 31-3 lead by halftime.

"We like to go fast," Bills pass rusher Von Miller said of the team's identity on both sides of the ball.

"We came into this with the killer instinct, attitude, the mindset of domination," Miller added. "And I feel like that mindset real-

ly separates good teams from other good teams."

Cowboys 22, Rams 10: DeMarcus Lawrence returned a fumble 19 yards for a touchdown on Los Angeles' opening drive, and Cooper Rush remained unbeaten as a fill-in starter for visiting Dallas.

Rush passed for just 102 yards. Tony Pollard had an outstanding 57-yard TD run for the Cowboys, who are 4-1 for a second consecutive season after racking up four consecutive wins without injured QB Dak Prescott.

Dorance Armstrong forced the fumble returned by Lawrence and later blocked a punt during a huge first quarter for Dallas, which got 86 yards rushing from Pollard and 78 more from Ezekiel Elliott.

Cooper Kupp had a 75-yard touchdown reception for the Rams (2-3), who fell below .500 for only the second time in coach Sean McVay's six seasons while getting shut out in the second half.

Buccaneers 21, Falcons 15: Tom Brady threw for 351 yards and a touchdown as host Tampa Bay beat Atlanta to end a two-game skid.

Brady completed 35 of 52 passes without an interception, avoiding his first three-game losing streak since 2002, when he was with the New England Patriots. Leonard Fournette scored two TDs for the Bucs (3-2) on a 1-yard run and a 1-yard reception.

The Falcons (2-3) trimmed a 21-0 deficit to six on Marcus Mariota's 19-yard TD throw to Olanive Zaccheaus and subsequent 2-point conversion pass to Khadare Hodge with 4:38 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Atlanta did not get the ball back as Brady, aided by a disputed roughing-the-passer penalty against defensive lineman Grady Jarrett on a third-down sack, led a game-clinching drive deep into Falcons territory.

Chargers 30, Browns 28:

Rookie Cade York missed a 54-yard field goal with 11 seconds left, and visiting Los Angeles held on to beat Cleveland after coach Brandon Staley inexplicably gambled on a fourth down.

York's kick sailed right and allowed the Chargers (3-2) to escape with a win.

With his team at its own 46 and leading by two, Staley called a timeout and then had Justin Herbert attempt a short pass on fourth-and-2 that fell incomplete, giving the ball back to the Browns with 1:10 left.

Cleveland had no timeouts and drove to the Chargers 35 to set up a shot for York, but the big-legged draft pick from LSU couldn't convert. He earlier missed a 45-yard attempt.

Jets 40, Dolphins 17: Michael Carter scored on a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs, and host New York ran past Miami to snap a 12-game skid against AFC East opponents.

Quarterback Zach Wilson, Breece Hall and Braxton Berrios also rushed for scores to help the Jets to their first 3-2 start since 2017. It was the franchise's first win against a division rival since topping Buffalo in Week 17 of the 2019 season.

The Dolphins lost another quarterback to injury when Teddy Bridgewater — starting for Tua Tagovailoa — was hit by rookie cornerback Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner on a blitz as he was about to throw on Miami's first play from scrimmage. Bridgewater was called for intentional grounding in the end zone on the play, resulting in a safety.

Bridgewater injured an elbow and was examined for a concussion before being ruled out. He was replaced by rookie Skylar Thompson, who had a few efficient drives for the Dolphins (3-2).

Vikings 29, Bears 22: Kirk Cousins scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak with 2:26 remaining and host Minnesota snapped out of its mid-game slump in

time to beat Chicago.

Cameron Dantzler sealed the victory that put the Vikings (4-1) alone in first place in the NFC North by ripping the ball away from former teammate Ithamar Smith-Marsette near the one-minute mark.

Patriots 29, Lions 0: Rookie Bailey Zappe threw a touchdown pass in his first career start and Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for a career-high 161 yards as host New England blanked Detroit.

Kyle Dugger returned a fumble 59 yards for a touchdown for the Patriots, whose defense and ground game gave Zappe plenty of support. The rookie completed 17 of 21 passes for 188 yards with Mac Jones out for the second straight week with an ankle injury and backup Brian Hoyer on injured reserve following a concussion.

Saints 39, Seahawks 32: Taysom Hill ran for three touchdowns, including a 60-yard one in the fourth quarter, and threw for another as host New Orleans beat Seattle to snap a three-game skid.

49ers 37, Panthers 15: Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, Emmanuel Moseley returned an interception 41 yards for a score and visiting San Francisco beat Carolina.

Titans 21, Commanders 17: Derrick Henry rushed for 102 yards and a touchdown, and visiting Tennessee made a last-minute goal-line stand to beat Washington. David Long Jr. intercepted Carson Wentz at the 1-yard line with 6 seconds left as the Titans (3-2) won their third straight.

Texans 13, Jaguars 6: Dameon Pierce ran for 99 yards and a touchdown, a score set up by the rookie's 20-yard gain in which he broke six tackles, and visiting Houston picked up its first win of the season while extending its winning streak over Jacksonville to nine.