

## Martial law ordered in annexed regions

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine—Russian President Vladimir Putin doubled down Wednesday on his faltering invasion by declaring martial law in four illegally annexed Ukrainian regions and setting the stage for draconian new restrictions and crackdowns throughout Russia. The drastic escalation appeared to be prompted by the threat of more stinging battlefield defeats, sabotage and troubles with his troop mobilization.

The order belies the Kremlin's attempts to portray life in the annexed regions as returning to normal, with the latest example the removal of civilian leaders, the installation of a military administration and a mass evacuation in Kherson.

With a Ukrainian counteroffensive grinding toward Kherson, the battle for the annexed southern city of more than 250,000 people, key industries and a major port is a pivotal moment for Ukraine and Russia heading into winter, when front lines could become largely frozen for months.

In announcing martial law, effective Thursday, Putin told his Security Council, "We are working to solve very difficult large-scale tasks to ensure Russia's security and safe future."

It was Putin's latest attempt to solidify control of not only the annexed regions but his entire country as he faces threats not only from the largely successful Ukrainian counteroffensive, but sabotage of a strategically impor-

tant bridge linking Russia with Crimea, assassinations of Kremlin-installed officials in Kherson and chaos and mistakes in his partial troop mobilization.

Putin's martial law declaration authorized creation of territorial defense forces in the annexed regions of Kherson, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, along with the potential impositions of curfews, restrictions on travel and public gatherings, tighter censorship and broader law enforcement powers.

In a potentially ominous move, Putin's order opens the door for restrictive measures to be extended across Russia. That may lead to an even tougher crackdown on dissent and freedom in Russia, where authorities have dispersed antiwar protests and jailed people for making statements or providing information about the fighting that differs from the official line.

The severity of restrictions inside Russia depends on proximity to Ukraine, covering freedom of movement and other security steps.

In the Kherson region, Ukrainian forces have pushed back Russian positions on the west bank of the Dnieper River. By pulling civilians out and fortifying positions in the region's main city, which backs onto the river, Russian forces appear to be hoping that the wide, deep waters will serve as natural barrier against the Ukrainian advance.

A trickle of evacuations from the city in recent days has become a flood. Local officials

said Wednesday that 5,000 had left the city already out of an expected 60,000. Russian state television showed residents crowding on the Dnieper's banks, many with small children, to cross by boats to the east — and, from there, deeper into Russian-controlled territory.

Russia has said the movement of Ukrainians to Russia or Russian-controlled territory is voluntary, but in many cases, they have no other routes out, and no other choice. Under martial law, authorities can force evacuations.

Reports have circulated of forced deportations, and an Associated Press investigation found that Russian officials deported thousands of Ukrainian children to be raised as Russian.

Russian authorities played up fears of an attack on Kherson, seemingly to persuade residents to leave.

Text messages warned residents to expect shelling, Russian state media reported.

One resident reached by phone described military vehicles leaving the city, Moscow-installed authorities scrambling to load documents onto trucks, and thousands of people lining up for ferries and buses.

"It looks more like a panic rather than an organized evacuation. People are buying the last remaining groceries in grocery shops and are running to the Kherson river port, where thousands of people are already waiting," the resident, Konstantin, said. The AP is withholding his family name, as he requested, for his safety.

## F-16s intercept Russian bombers flying near Alaska

**By COREY DICKSTEIN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The United States scrambled a pair of fighter jets Monday to intercept two Russian bombers flying in international airspace off the coast of Alaska, U.S. military officials said.

The U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets intercepted the Russian Tu-95 Bear-H bombers after they were "detected, tracked [and] positively identified" entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone by the North American Aerospace Defense Command. The intercept ended without incident and was not considered a

threat or a military provocation, according to the statement issued Tuesday from NORAD, a joint U.S.-Canadian command charged with defending those nations' airspace.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said the incident remained safe and professional and noted such interactions over international waters near Alaska occur regularly.

Ryder did not say precisely how far from U.S. airspace the Tu-95s flew nor how long the incident lasted.

NORAD said the Russian aircraft never came close to entering U.S. airspace,

which extends 12 nautical miles from American shores. However, U.S. officials expect aircraft entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone — a stretch of mostly international airspace some 200 nautical miles off the Alaskan coast — to identify themselves in the interest of national security.

The command said it uses a combination of satellites, ground-based and airborne radars and fighter jets to monitor aircraft within the zone and was prepared to "employ a number of response options in defense of North America and Arctic sovereignty."

# White House offers Senate NDAA vision

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Tuesday laid out its vision for the Senate version of the annual Pentagon policy bill on a range of issues, including a new nuclear missile, visas for Afghans and a lack of funds for military construction projects.

It also asked Congress to include new authorities in the bill, including for military support to Ukraine, and to broaden some existing proposals.

The White House listed some grievances alongside points of agreement in a statement of administration policy released by the White House Office of Management and Budget, a public document that signals the administration's views on pending legislation.

Although the final makeup of fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act will be decided by Congress, the SAP can hint at sticking points that congressional leaders may have to negotiate before a final bill is sent to the president's desk.

The administration said that it seeks two new authorities in regard to supplying weapons to Ukraine: a Critical Munitions

Acquisition Fund and a Defense Exportability Transfer Account.

The munitions funds would authorize \$500 million for the Pentagon to procure additional munitions. The House NDAA bill has a fund dedicated to funding munitions components that take a long time to produce, but it is not sufficient, the White House has said.

The administration also strongly opposes continued funding for the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N) and its associated warhead, and any attempts to delay the retirement of the B83-1 thermonuclear bomb.

"Further investment in developing SLCM-N would divert resources and focus from higher modernization priorities for the U.S. nuclear enterprise and infrastructure, which is already stretched to capacity after decades of deferred investments. It would also impose operational challenges on the Navy. The Administration opposes any limitation or delay to the retirement of the B83-1 because of its diminishing utility in the current security environment," the SAP stated.

In March, Rep. Mike Rogers, of Alabama,

and Sen. James Inhofe, of Oklahoma — the ranking Republicans on the Armed Services committees — said they would oppose any attempt by President Joe Biden to eliminate funding for the missile or retire the bomb.

And in April, top military officials said they backed the construction of the SLCM-N, which would not be delivered before the 2030s.

The White House said it also wanted an increase in the number of Afghan special immigrant visas, or SIVs, to be included in the bill.

The SIVs are for Afghan interpreters, contractors and other vulnerable U.S. allies who aided the American war effort in Afghanistan and now face reprisal at home for their efforts.

Another sticking point between the administration and Senate lawmakers appears to be military construction. According to the SAP, the Senate bill does not fully fund 21 military construction projects, which the White House says will effectively create an unfunded obligation of over \$2 billion that will carry over into future budget requests.

## McCarthy: No 'blank check' for Ukraine if GOP wins

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy warned Tuesday that Republicans will not write a "blank check" for Ukraine if they win back the House majority, reflecting his party's growing skepticism about financial support for Kyiv as it battles Russia's invasion.

"I think people are gonna be sitting in a recession and they're not going to write a blank check to Ukraine," McCarthy told PunchbowlNews. "They just won't do it. ... It's not a free blank check."

The comments from McCarthy, who is in line to become speaker if Republicans win the House, raised fresh questions about the resiliency of America's support for Ukraine as a growing number of Republicans, particularly those aligned with Donald Trump's "America First" approach, question the need for federal spending abroad at a time of record-high inflation at home.

Since Russia launched its invasion in February, Congress has approved tens of billions in emergency security and humanitar-

ian assistance for Ukraine, while the Biden administration has shipped billions worth of weapons and equipment from military inventories.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre sidestepped Tuesday afternoon when asked about McCarthy's comments.

She instead thanked congressional leaders for bipartisan work to "support Ukraine to defend itself from Russia's war crimes and atrocities."

"We will continue to work with Congress and continue to monitor those conversations on these efforts and support Ukraine as long as it takes," she said. "We are going to keep that promise that we're making to the brave Ukrainians who are fighting every day, to fight for their freedom and their democracy."

In private, GOP lawmakers who support aid to Ukraine say there could be an opportunity to pass one more tranche in an end-of-year spending package, before Republicans potentially take control in the next Congress.

Last month, lawmakers approved about \$12.3 billion in Ukraine-related aid as part of a bill that finances the federal government through Dec. 16. The money included aid for the Ukrainian military as well as money to help the country's government provide basic services to its citizens.

That comes on top of more than \$50 billion provided in two previous bills.

Financial support for Ukraine garnered strong bipartisan support in the Senate and the House after Russia's invasion in the spring. In the Senate, GOP leader Mitch McConnell and Richard Shelby, the lead Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, were early and consistent voices for Ukraine aid. But conservative opposition was present from the start. Republicans accounted for the only votes against a \$40 billion aid package in the spring.

Nearly 60 House members and 11 senators opposed the legislation, citing the need for more oversight of how the money is spent and what weapons and equipment the U.S. is sending overseas.

# Biden to release 15M barrels from oil reserve

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden planned to announce the release of 15 million barrels of oil from the U.S. strategic reserve Wednesday as part of a response to recent production cuts announced by OPEC+ nations, and he expects more drawdowns are possible this winter, as his administration rushes to be seen as pulling out all the stops ahead of next month's midterm elections.

Biden will deliver remarks Wednesday to announce the drawdown from the strategic reserve, senior administration officials said Tuesday on the condition of anonymity to outline Biden's plans. It completes the release of 180 million barrels authorized by Biden in March that was initially supposed to oc-

cur over six months. That has sent the strategic reserve to its lowest level since 1984 in what the administration called a "bridge" until domestic production could be increased. The reserve now contains roughly 400 million barrels.

Biden will also open the door to additional releases this winter in an effort to keep prices down. But administration officials would not detail how much the president would be willing to tap, nor by how much they want domestic production to increase to end the withdrawals.

Biden will also say that the U.S. government will restock the strategic reserve when oil prices are at or lower than \$67 to \$72 a barrel, an offer that administration officials argue will support domestic production by guarantee-

ing a baseline level of demand. Yet the president is also expected to renew his criticism of profits reaped by oil companies — repeating a bet made this summer that public condemnation would matter more to these companies than shareholders' focus on returns.

It marks the continuation of an about-face by Biden, who has tried to move the U.S. past fossil fuels to identify additional sources of energy to satisfy U.S. and global supply as a result of disruptions from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and production cuts announced by the Saudi Arabia-led oil cartel.

The prospective loss of 2 million barrels a day — 2% of global supply — has had the White House saying Saudi Arabia sided

with Russian President Vladimir Putin and pledging there will be consequences for supply cuts that could prop up energy prices. The 15 million-barrel release would not cover even one full day's use of oil in the U.S., according to the Energy Information Administration.

Biden faces political headwinds because of gas prices. AAA reports that gas is averaging \$3.87 a gallon. That's down slightly over the past week, but it's up from a month ago.

An analysis Monday by ClearView Energy Partners, an independent energy research firm based in Washington, suggested that two states that could decide control of the evenly split Senate — Nevada and Pennsylvania — are sensitive to energy prices.

## Wis. gubernatorial candidate walks back abortion pledge

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The Republican running for governor in Wisconsin suggested Tuesday that he did not support enforcing the swing state's near-total ban on abortions, saying "I will never arrest a doctor" before his campaign walked back his comment.

Tim Michels is locked in a tight race with Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and abortion has been a major issue. Michels, who is endorsed by former President Donald Trump, said in the GOP primary that he backed a state law that makes it a felony for doctors to perform nearly all abortions. But last month Michels had changed course and said he would sign a bill granting exceptions in cases of rape and incest. He repeated that position Tuesday at the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, but went a step further.

"I will never arrest a doctor, as they're saying," he said. "I'm a reasonable guy."

Under Wisconsin's abortion ban, doctors who perform abortions can be found guilty of a felo-

ny, punishable by up to six years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. The governor is not responsible for enforcing the law, but Michels' comment suggested he did not support anyone arresting a doctor who would violate it.

Michels' spokesperson Anna Kelly attempted to clarify his comment, saying it was the district attorneys, not the governor, who enforce laws.

"He's not a DA or beat cop arresting anyone," she said.

Evers campaign spokesman Sam Roecker accused Michels of trying to hide his true support for "locking up doctors who provide abortions," noting his longtime support for banning abortions.

"He's either lying to voters today, in a desperate attempt to hide his radical positions, or he was lying to them for the last six months," Roecker said.

Democratic district attorneys in the state's two largest counties where abortions had been performed before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned have said they won't enforce the state's ban.

## USDA announces \$1B debt relief for farmers

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The federal government announced Tuesday a program that will provide \$1.3 billion in debt relief for about 36,000 farmers who have fallen behind on loan payments or face foreclosure.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the farm loan relief program funded from \$3.1 billion set aside in the Inflation Reduction Act allocated toward assisting distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA. The law was passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden in August.

The USDA provides loans to about 115,000 farmers and livestock producers who cannot obtain commercial credit. Those who have missed payments, are in foreclosure or are heading toward default will get help from the USDA.

"Through no fault of their own, our nation's farmers and

ranchers have faced incredibly tough circumstances over the last few years," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

About 11,000 farm borrowers delinquent on direct or guaranteed loan payments for 60 days or longer are receiving automatic electronic payments to get them current on their loans. Each farmer with a direct loan received about \$52,000 and those with guaranteed loans received about \$172,000. The total cost for this group is nearly \$600 million. Farmers who received this help will get a letter informing them that their payments have been made and they will remain current until their next annual payment is due in 2023, Vilsack said.

Another \$200 million has been used to immediately help 2,100 farm borrowers after their loans had been foreclosed but who still owed money and had their tax refunds and other resources taken by the U.S. Treasury.



# NYC opens emergency center for influx of migrants

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A complex of giant tents built on an island is set to open Wednesday as New York City's latest temporary shelter for an influx of international migrants being bused into the city by southern border states.

The humanitarian relief center on Randall's Island is intended to be a temporary waystation for single, adult men — many from Venezuela — who have been arriving several times per week on buses chartered predominantly from Texas.

Spartan and utilitarian, the tents include cots for up to 500 people, laundry facilities, a dining hall and phones for residents to make international

calls.

The city's plan is to bring single men to the facility once they arrive at the main Manhattan bus terminal and to house them there for a period of days while determining next steps, officials said. Families with children are being housed in a hotel.

"We needed a different type of operation that gave us the time and space to welcome people, provide them a warm meal, shower, a place to sleep, to understand their medical needs, to really then work with them to figure out what their next step is going to be," said Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol.

The white, plastic-walled tents also include a space where migrants can meet with case

workers to determine their next steps, as well as a recreational room with televisions, video games and board games. In the sleeping area, row upon row of green cots stretch out, each one with a pillow, some sheets and a blanket, and some towels. The city said it will be able to double the sleeping capacity of the tents, if needed.

In recent months, New York City has seen an unexpected increase in migrants seeking asylum in the United States who have been sent to the city from other states including Texas and Arizona. The influx has put a strain on the city's shelter system, leading officials to look for other places to house people and proposing the temporary tent facilities.

New York City's homeless shelter system is now bursting with more than 63,300 residents. While there are fewer families in the shelters now than there were in the years before the pandemic, the number of single men has soared since the spring, largely because of the influx of migrants. There were more than 20,000 single adults in the shelter system Monday, up 23% from the nightly average in July.

Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency earlier this month, calling the increased demand being put on the city "not sustainable."

The tents were initially planned for a far-off corner of the Bronx, but were moved after concerns about flooding.

# School to close after radioactive waste report

Associated Press

FLORISSANT, Mo. — A Missouri school board decided Tuesday to shut down a grade school that sits near a contaminated creek after a study funded by law firms involved in a class-action lawsuit found high levels of radioactive material inside the school.

Contamination was in classrooms, the playground and elsewhere at Jana Elementary School in Florissant, Mo., according to a report last week by Boston Chemical Data Corp. It follows another study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, made public in the summer, that found contamination stemming from World War II-era nuclear weapons production in a wooded area near Coldwater Creek.

The Hazelwood Board of Education voted in closed session Tuesday to close the school

until it can be cleaned up. Virtual learning will start Monday and is planned until the students can be moved to different schools, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 28. It's unclear when Jana Elementary would reopen.

The school board, in a statement after the closed meeting, said the remediation is necessary but acknowledged "this is causing a disruption to our students' education and school climate."

The decision came even as a Corps official raised questions about the Boston Chemical study. Phillip Moser, program manager of the Corps' Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program in St. Louis, said the agency's evaluations found no contamination between the wooded site and the school or its playground. He called the Boston Chemical report "incomplete and not consistent with the approved processes re-

quired to do an evaluation at one of our sites."

Still, several politicians urged immediate closure of the school.

The new report worried parents, especially since the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry stated in 2019 that people exposed to Coldwater Creek from the 1960s to the 1990s may have an increased risk of bone cancer, lung cancer and leukemia.

"I do not understand why it's not closed now," William Johnson, the father of a current student at the school and three others who went there, told the board.

It wasn't immediately clear if students will continue at the school through the rest of the week. District spokesperson Jordyn Elston said she didn't have information on the remainder of the week.

# Fla. sees rise in flesh-eating bacteria amid Ian concerns

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Florida has seen an increase in cases of flesh-eating bacteria this year driven largely by a surge in the county hit hardest by Hurricane Ian.

The state Department of Health reports that as of Friday there have been 65 cases of

vibrio vulnificus infections and 11 deaths in Florida this year. That compares with 34 cases and 10 deaths reported during all of 2021.

In Lee County, where Ian stormed ashore last month, the health department reports 29 cases this year and four deaths.

Health officials didn't give a breakdown of how many of the cases were before or after Ian struck. Lee County health officials earlier this month warned people that the post-hurricane environment — including warm, standing water — could pose a danger from the potentially deadly bacteria.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Police rescue dog walker surrounded by coyotes**

**MA** SWAMPSCOTT — Police north of Boston came to the rescue of a person who was out walking their dog when they were surrounded by a pack of coyotes.

Police in Swampscott received a call from the dog walker who said they were surrounded and the coyotes were “not backing down,” police said in a Facebook post.

Responding officers counted at least nine coyotes. They were apparently scared off by the arrival of the cruisers with their lights flashing.

Police escorted the dog walker and their pet to their home with no additional danger.

**Cops say campaign signs were booby-trapped**

**PA** NEWTOWN — Political signs in southeastern Pennsylvania were found booby-trapped with razor blades, which resulted in sliced fingers for one resident, police said.

Upper Makefield Township police said that a campaign sign for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro was placed without permission on someone’s property, and while trying to remove it the resident found that razor blades had been “placed around the perimeter of the sign.” Police said they inspected all campaign signs and found razor blades placed around the perimeter of signs for two other Democratic candidates.

Police said their investigation continues and warned residents to exercise caution in removing signs placed on their property

without permission, and to call them if “any implements” have been installed on the signs.

**Drivers shoot daughters in road rage confrontation**

**FL** FERNANDINA BEACH — Two men face attempted murder charges for allegedly firing into each other’s vehicles on a busy Florida highway and wounding each other’s daughters, who were passengers in their back seats.

William Hale, of Douglasville, Ga., and Frank Allison, of Callahan, Fla., were charged with attempted second-degree murder in the Oct. 8 confrontation.

A witness told Nassau County sheriff’s deputies that both vehicles were being driven so erratically and engaging in a “cat and mouse” chase that he called the authorities, according to an incident report.

Hale’s daughter suffered a wound to her upper calf; Allison’s daughter suffered a collapsed lung, according to the report.

**River’s low water level reveals shipwreck**

**LA** BATON ROUGE — A shipwreck has emerged along the banks of the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge as water levels plummet — threatening to reach record lows in some areas.

The ship, which archaeologists believe to be a ferry that sunk in the late 1800s to early 1900s, was spotted by a Baton Rouge resident walking along the shore earlier this month.

Louisiana state archaeologist Chip McGimsey believes that the ship may be the Brookhill Ferry, which likely carried peo-

ple and horse-drawn wagons from one side of the river to the other — before major bridges spanned the mighty Mississippi.

Newspaper archives indicate that the ship sank in 1915 during a major storm.

**No cash accessed after ATM blown up**

**CA** PALMDALE — Would-be thieves tried to blow up an ATM in Southern California, but didn’t get away with any cash, authorities said.

Bomb techs with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department responded to reports of an explosion in Palmdale, officials said. Photos posted to Twitter by the sheriff’s Special Enforcement Bureau showed the Bank of America ATM blown apart with debris scattered around and scorch marks on the pavement.

“No currency was accessed. Investigation ongoing. Neighborhood safe,” the tweet said.

**Body found in crashed car that of teen driver’s mom**

**NE** GRAND ISLAND — The body of a Texas woman found in the trunk of a car that crashed in south-central Nebraska during a police chase was the mother of the teenage driver, police confirmed.

Nebraska authorities were alerted to be on the lookout for a vehicle out of Texas believed to be involved in a possible homicide there, the Nebraska State Patrol said. A trooper spotted the car and attempted to stop it, but the driver refused to pull over and a chase ensued reaching speeds of more than 110

mph, the patrol said.

The car soon crashed, and the 17-year-old driver suffered serious but non-lethal injuries, police said.

Police also found the body of a woman, later identified as Michelle Roenz, 49, in the car’s trunk.

The Harris County Sheriff’s Office confirmed she was the mother of the 17-year-old boy who was driving the car.

Preliminary reports show she died from strangulation and blunt force trauma, Harris County Deputy Thomas Gilliland said.

**Big ships asked to slow down for orcas**

**WA** SEATTLE — Big ships entering and leaving Puget Sound will be asked to slow down to reduce underwater noise this fall in an effort to help the Pacific Northwest’s critically endangered orca whales.

Washington state is importing the voluntary slowdown from British Columbia for container ships, tankers, freighters, cruise ships and car carriers coming from the Canadian province, Northwest News Network reported. The optional slowdown is scheduled to run from Oct. 24 to Dec. 22.

Rachel Aronson, program director of Quiet Sound, said most vessels would need to reduce speed by 30% to 50% over 20 nautical miles.

She said the time period and geographic area for the trial slowdown were chosen because the orcas travel into inland Puget Sound during that time to chase salmon runs.

—From wire reports



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# Phillies top Padres in Game 1 of NLCS

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Bryce Harper hit another postseason home run — no surprise there — and then Kyle Schwarber topped him by launching a shot that amazed even his teammates.

Harper hit his fourth homer this postseason and Schwarber hit a jaw-dropping, 488-foot drive that carried the Philadelphia Phillies over the San Diego Padres 2-0 Tuesday night to open the all-wild card NL Championship Series.

Zack Wheeler was awesome, too, combining with two relievers on a one-hitter for Philadelphia. The Phillies managed just three hits off Yu Darvish and the San Diego bullpen — the combined four hits matched the fewest ever in a postseason game.

The Phillies tried to take a 2-0 lead when they sent Aaron Nola to the mound to oppose Blake Snell on Wednesday. Nola was set to pitch against his brother, Padres catcher Austin Nola.

“I thought Darvish was really good and we couldn’t get much going, but Harper, three straight games with a home run, and Schwarber’s game was just completely flush,” Philadelphia manager Rob Thom-

son said. “I mean, with the great pitching we had tonight, that’s all we needed.”

Harper, trying to reach his first World Series, hit a high-arcing, opposite-field shot into the first row in left field with one out in the fourth. It was the fourth home run this postseason for Harper, who was playing in San Diego for the first time since his left thumb was broken when he was hit by a pitch by Snell on June 25, sidelining him for two months.

Harper, the two-time NL MVP who won the award last year, has hit nine home runs in 26 career postseason games.

Schwarber’s incredible shot on Darvish’s first pitch of the sixth had an exit velocity of 119.7 mph — the hardest-hit ball in any postseason since Statcast began tracking in 2015 — and was the first to reach the right field upper deck at Petco Park, which opened in 2004. It was the farthest in his career and the farthest at Petco in the Statcast Era and gave the Phillies a 2-0 lead.

Schwarber, who led the NL with 46 home runs this season but was in a 1-for-20 postseason slump coming in, raised his right arm as he rounded first base and Harper

stood in the dugout with his mouth agape in amazement.

“I thought it got pretty small pretty fast,” said Harper, who’s in his first NLCS. “I’ve never seen a ball go up in that section in Petco Park. Just very impressive.”

And then some.

“A lot of people just looked at me weird,” Schwarber said about the reaction he got in the dugout. “It was a cool moment, but I’m happy that we got the win overall.”

Wheeler said he was in the tunnel just off the dugout, “but I heard everybody sort of take off, so I ran up the stairs and I saw it land, and that was pretty crazy,” the pitcher said. “I’ve never even seen that done in batting practice or anything.”

Austin Nola, the Padres’ catcher, said “that ball was hit as far as I’ve ever seen. It was left over the middle — it was up in the zone. He put a good swing on it.”

Darvish said it wasn’t a mistake pitch to Harper, but added, “For Schwarber that is on me, that is my mistake. I knew he was waiting on something off-speed. The ball kind of went into the middle area and he got the most of it,” he said through an interpreter.

# Stanton, Judge blast Yankees past Guardians

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gleyber Torres stepped on second base for the final out, swinging his arms back and forth, four times in all, while glaring at Josh Naylor and the Guardians dugout.

Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge rocked Cleveland with early homers, and Nestor Cortes and the New York Yankees rolled into another AL Championship Series matchup with the Houston Astros.

“We got our revenge. We’re happy to beat those guys. Now they can watch on TV the next series for us,” Torres said after the Yankees beat the Guardians 5-1 in the decisive Game 5 of their AL Division Series on Tuesday night. “It’s nothing personal. Just a little thing about revenge.”

Yankees manager Aaron Boone won his gamble by starting Cortes on three days’ rest over Jameson Taillon, making the late switch after Monday night’s rain caused a postponement.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona stayed the course with Aaron Civale instead of switching to 2020 Cy Young Award win-

ner Shane Bieber on short rest.

“I’ve never done it,” Bieber said. “But could I have? Sure.”

Civale had trouble throwing strikes, and the Guardians never recovered from Stanton’s three-run homer just 21 pitches in.

Taillon started Wednesday night at Houston, which went with Justin Verlander. The AL matchup features the league’s top two regular-season teams in the 106-win Astros and 99-win Yankees, a contrast to the NL championship between wild-card San Diego and Philadelphia.

“When they’re all clicking they’re great,” Yankees ace Gerrit Cole said of the Astros, his former team. When they’re not all clicking, they’re great.”

Cole got two wins against Cleveland and carved the Guardians with just three words. Naylor made the rocking the baby motion repeatedly while rounding the bases after homering off Cole in Game 4.

Cole responded: “Whatever. It’s cute.”

“We feel like it is a little disrespectful, not just Cole but for the team,” Torres said.

Yankees fans in the sellout crowd of

48,178 greeted Naylor with derisive chants of “Who’s your daddy!” echoing their treatment of Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez two decades ago.

No offense, Naylor said.

“That was so sick,” he said. “That was honestly like a dream come true as a kid. Playing in an environment like this, where they’ve got diehard fans. It’s cool.”

Cortes dominated with three-hit ball for five innings for the win, throwing 61 pitches.

Now 27, Cortes was traded by the Yankees to Seattle after the 2019 season, was dropped by the Mariners a year later and became an All-Star after resurfacing in the Bronx.

“Just the legend of Nestor,” Boone said. “Honestly going in, I would have been really excited about 10 batters.”

Cortes dominated with three-hit ball for five innings for the win, throwing 61 pitches.

“I’ve got nothing to lose. I’ve been in the gutter before. I’ve been down,” Cortes said. “So for me, this is just a cherry on top.”

Jonathan Loáisiga, Clay Holmes and Wandy Peralta finished with five-hit scoreless relief.



# Momentum building to remove Snyder

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colts owner Jim Irsay says there's "merit to remove" Dan Snyder as owner of the Washington Commanders, making him the first NFL owner to publicly state that his controversial counterpart should go.

Snyder's status has been widely debated for years amid several scandals and investigations into workplace conduct in Washington. The league has been investigating allegations of sexual misconduct and financial impropriety, a probe conducted by attorney Mary Jo White that is ongoing.

Removing Snyder would be unprecedented and requires 24 votes from the other owners.

"It's something we have to review, we have to look at all the evidence and we have to be thorough and it's something that has to be given serious consideration," Irsay said Tuesday. "I believe in the workplace today, the standard that the shield stands for in the NFL, that you have to stand for that and protect that. I just think once owners talk

among each other they will arrive at the right decision. Unfortunately, I believe that's the road we probably need to go down and we just need to finish the investigation, but it's gravely concerning to me the things that have occurred there over the last 20 years."

A person familiar with the thinking of several owners told The Associated Press that they agree with Irsay and have serious concerns about the allegations against Snyder. The person, who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the conversations are private, said a group of owners believe Snyder's dismissal would be best for the NFL and the other 31 teams. The person doesn't know if 24 owners would vote to remove Snyder, but momentum is building against him.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell cautioned owners to reserve judgment until the investigation is completed.

"There's no reason for there to be any speculation at this point in time or discussion until we have the facts. That was my

message to ownership," Goodell said.

The Commanders released a statement saying the Snyders will not sell the team.

"It is highly inappropriate, but not surprising, that Mr. Irsay opted to make statements publicly based on falsehoods in the media," the statement said. "It is unfortunate that Mr. Irsay decided to go public with his statement today, while an investigation is in process, and the team has had no opportunity to formally respond to allegations. The Commanders have made remarkable progress over the past two years. We are confident that, when he has an opportunity to see the actual evidence in this case, Mr. Irsay will conclude that there is no reason for the Snyders to consider selling the franchise. And they won't."

Snyder has owned the team since 1999.

Snyder's ownership of the Commanders became a big issue again last week when ESPN reported, citing anonymous sources, that he has hired private investigators and told people he has enough information to expose fellow owners and Goodell.

## Flyers top Lightning for third comeback win in row

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Carter Hart stopped 37 shots, Noah Cates scored a tiebreaking goal in the third period and Philadelphia beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 Tuesday night for the Flyers' third straight comeback win to open the season.

Hart made a pad save on a breakaway by Brayden Point in the first period and improved to 1-5-1 against Tampa Bay.

Cates completed the rally from a two-goal deficit by scoring from the slot after a turnover at 12:44 of the third.

"Carter was outstanding," Flyers coach John Tortorella said. "Kept us in it. We found a way at the end. We hope we're building a little bit of a mindset of resiliency. I think each time it happens that way and you succeed, it just builds it for you."

Steven Stamkos had two power-play goals and extended his season-opening goal streak to four games for the Lightning, who had their 10-game winning streak against the Flyers halted.

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 21 saves for the Lightning, who opened the season dropping two of three on the road.

"This is a stinger," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "We should never leave this

game with zero points ... probably should have left with two. This group should close that game out, and we didn't. That's probably a little bit of a concern."

**Senators 7, Bruins 5:** Claude Giroux opened the scoring in his Ottawa homecoming and helped his team earn its first victory of the season while also handing Boston its first loss.

Brady Tkachuk, Drake Batherson and Tim Stutzle each had a goal and two assists for Ottawa.

David Pastrnak and Patrice Bergeron each had a goal and two assists for Boston.

**Sabres 4, Oilers 2:** Eric Comrie made 46 saves to help visiting Buffalo beat Edmonton.

Rasmus Dahlin, Tage Thompson, Alex Tuch and J.J. Peterka scored for Buffalo.

**Blue Jackets 4, Canucks 3 (OT):** Vladislav Gavrikov scored in overtime and host Columbus beat Vancouver for its first victory of the season.

The Canucks remained winless after four games and are the first team in NHL history to give up four straight multi-goal leads to start a season.

Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and an assist for Columbus.

**Islanders 5, Sharks 2:** Oliver Wahlstrom scored twice to help host New York push the San Jose's season-opening losing streak to five.

Anders Lee, Zach Parise and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for New York. Semyon Varlamov made 27 saves for his first victory of the season.

**Kings 4, Predators 3 (SO):** Gabriel Vilar-di scored the shootout winner and had a goal and an assist in regulation in visiting Los Angeles' victory over Nashville.

Matt Roy had two third-period goals and Cal Petersen made 31 saves in regulation and overtime and denied all three Nashville attempts in the shootout to help extend the Kings' winning streak to three.

**Flames 3, Golden Knights 2:** Mikael Backlund broke a tie with 4:29 left in host Calgary's victory over Vegas.

Vegas newcomer Phil Kessel played his 986th consecutive NHL game, leaving him three behind Philadelphia defenseman Keith Yandle's record set in April.

**Devils 4, Ducks 2:** Defenseman Dougie Hamilton broke a tie 33 seconds into the third period, Mackenzie Blackwood made 18 saves and host New Jersey beat Anaheim for its first victory.

# Warriors roll past Lakers in opener

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — After all those thrilling NBA Finals battles of last decade, Stephen Curry and LeBron James can still put on a spectacular show well into their 30s.

Opening night between these two greats showed why Curry's team is on top these days.

Curry began the season with 33 points, seven assists and six rebounds despite a slow start, and the Golden State Warriors beat James and the Los Angeles Lakers 123-109 on Tuesday night after receiving their championship rings in a pre-game ceremony.

"I'm thrilled with the win," coach Steve Kerr said. "Ring night is never an easy game and the first game of the season is usually filled with some nerves early on."

Jordan Poole made a pretty

bounce pass to a driving Draymond Green for a layup and all seemed perfectly well with the defending champions almost two weeks after Green punched Poole at practice Oct. 5, then took a brief leave of absence from the team to work on his emotions. Poole wound up with 12 points and seven assists.

"We went out there, we had a job to do tonight to win a game," Poole said when asked if healing has happened between him and Green. "It was a ring night and that's really what we were focused on finishing the first game. It was a huge win against a really good team."

James had 31 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists, while Russell Westbrook scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds after nursing a sore left hamstring. Anthony Davis added 27 points, but the Lakers couldn't

keep up in another signature, runaway third quarter by reigning NBA Finals MVP Curry and Co.

"That third quarter is where they always excelled, when they made this transition to being a powerhouse team," James said. "You've always got to be ready for the third quarters, and we were not tonight."

Curry missed his initial five three-pointers and finished 10-for-22, 4-for-13 from deep.

Klay Thompson contributed 18 points in 20 minutes for the Warriors, who celebrated the franchise's fourth title in eight years.

"It's really fun to be a part of, it's really fun to watch," Poole said. "... These guys have played at the highest level over and over and over again."

**Celtics 126, 76ers 117:** Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown

each scored 35 points and host Boston beat Philadelphia in the opening game of the NBA regular season.

Malcolm Brogdon added 16 points and Grant Williams finished with 15 as the defending Eastern Conference champions gave interim coach Joe Mazzulla a victory in his debut.

Mazzulla has been tasked with leading the team after Ime Udoka was suspended for the season following an investigation by a law firm that found he committed multiple violations of team policies.

James Harden scored 35 points — his most since joining the 76ers last season — including 12-for-12 from the free-throw line. He also had five three-pointers.

Joel Embiid added 26 points and 15 rebounds. Tyrese Maxey finished with 21 points.

## NASCAR suspends Wallace 1 race for Vegas crash

Associated Press

Bubba Wallace received a one race suspension from NASCAR after an investigation determined he deliberately spun reigning Cup champion Kyle Larson at Las Vegas in a "dangerous act" of retaliation before confronting him afterward.

Wallace had a shoving match with Larson after Sunday's incident at Las Vegas and also pushed away a NASCAR official. The suspension handed down Tuesday falls under NASCAR's behavioral policy, and technically could cover most of Wallace's actions at Las Vegas.

But Steve O'Donnell, the executive in charge of competition and racing operations, said the penalties were for Wallace's dangerous and deliberate retaliation against Larson, not the fracas a few moments later.

"When we look at how that incident occurred, in our minds, (it was) really a dangerous act that we thought was intentional and put other competitors at risk," O'Donnell said on SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

Still, Wallace's suspension for this Sunday's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway is a rare step: Wallace is the first Cup Series

driver to be suspended for an on-track incident since Matt Kenseth was parked for two races in 2015 for an incident at Martinsville.

23XI Racing, which is owned by Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan, is not appealing the penalty, and John Hunter Nemechek will replace Wallace this weekend.

Larson, who had been eliminated from the playoffs a week earlier, and Wallace, who did not qualify to race for the Cup title, clashed on Lap 94 at Las Vegas. Larson attempted a three-wide pass and Kevin Harvick in the middle dropped out of the bunch. Larson slid up the track toward Wallace, who did not lift off the gas to give Larson any room. Larson then shoved Wallace's Toyota into the wall.

Wallace had led 29 laps in a car he believed capable of winning and he reacted by following Larson's car down to the apron, where he seemed to deliberately hook him in the rear corner as retaliation. That sent Larson spinning into the path of Christopher Bell, a title contender who is part of the Toyota camp with Wallace.

The crash ended Bell's race and dropped him to last in the eight-driver playoff stand-

ings.

Wallace and Bell shared a flight home from Las Vegas, and Wallace apologized during the trip to his fellow Toyota teammate for the incident that crippled Bell's championship chances.

Bell said Wallace also apologized to the entire Toyota group in the Monday competition meeting.

### Bouknight unconscious with gun

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte Hornets guard James Bouknight was found intoxicated and unconscious and holding a gun with his vehicle in drive before he was arrested on Sunday morning on DWI charges, according to Charlotte Mecklenburg County Police.

Police released the new details on Bouknight's arrest on Wednesday.

Police said they responded to reports that a person was passed out in his vehicle in a Charlotte parking lot Sunday morning, blocking traffic.

According to the police report, officers saw Bouknight unconscious inside the vehicle with the vehicle running and in drive. He had the handgun in his hands