

## Global concerns rise as Russia halts grain deal

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia resumed its blockade of Ukrainian ports on Sunday, cutting off urgently needed grain exports to hungry parts of the world.

Russia announced it would immediately halt participation in the grain deal, alleging that Ukraine staged a drone attack Saturday against Russia's Black Sea Fleet off the coast of occupied Crimea. Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that Russia mishandled its own weapons.

A ship carrying 40,000 tons of grain bound for Ethiopia under the United Nations aid program could not leave Ukraine on Sunday as a result of Russia's "blockage of the grain corridor," Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's minister of infrastructure, said on Twitter. He didn't specify from which Ukrainian port the ship, the *Ikraia Angel*, had been sched-

uled to depart.

The grain initiative has allowed more than 9 million tons of grain in 397 ships to safely leave Ukrainian ports since it was signed in July. U.N. chief António Guterres had urged Russia and Ukraine on Friday to renew the deal when it expires Nov. 19. The grain agreement has succeeded in bringing down global food prices about 15% from their peak in March, according to the U.N., which has listed Ethiopia as one of the countries most at risk for food shortages.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that 176 ships loaded with grain for more than 7 million consumers are being blocked.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said Sunday that no more ships would depart from Ukraine but those already waiting near Istanbul would be inspected on Sunday or Monday. The statement said

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar was in talks with his counterparts to "solve the problem and to continue the grain initiative."

Russia requested a meeting Monday of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the alleged attack and the security of the Black Sea grain corridor. Guterres delayed a trip to Algeria by a day to engage in talks aimed at ending Russia's suspension of the grain export deal.

More conflicting details emerged Sunday about the alleged attack on Russia's Black Sea Fleet. The city council of Mariupol, a Ukrainian port captured by Russia on the Azov Sea, said on Telegram that Ukrainian special services had destroyed at least three Russian warships near the city of Sevastopol on the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

An adviser to Ukraine's Interior Ministry claimed that the Rus-

sians' "careless handling of explosives" had caused blasts on four Russian warships. Anton Gerashchenko wrote on Telegram that the vessels included a frigate, a landing ship and a ship that carried cruise missiles.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed Sunday that one of the drones that attacked Sevastopol could have been launched from a civilian ship carrying agricultural products from Ukraine. The ministry claimed an inspection of the wreckage showed the drones used Canadian-made navigation technology and that the launch point was the Ukrainian coast near the port of Odesa. The ministry claimed the ships that were attacked had helped secure the safety of the Black Sea grain corridor.

Independent verification of each side's claims was not possible.

## S. Korea reels after scores die in crush at Halloween event

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — Concerned relatives raced to hospitals in search of their loved ones Sunday as South Korea mourned the deaths of more than 150 people, mostly in their 20s and 30s, who got trapped and crushed after a huge Halloween party crowd surged into a narrow alley in a nightlife district in Seoul.

Witnesses said the crowd surge Saturday night in the Itaewon area caused "a hell-like" chaos as people fell on each other "like dominoes." Some people were bleeding from their noses and mouths while being given CPR, witnesses said, while others clad in Halloween costumes continued to sing and dance nearby, possibly without knowing the severity of the situation.

"I still can't believe what has happened. It was like a hell," said Kim Mi Sung, an official at a nonprofit organization that promotes tourism in Itaewon.

Kim said she performed CPR on 10 people who were unconscious and nine of them were declared dead on the spot. Kim said the 10 were mostly women wearing witch outfits and other Halloween costumes.

The crowd surge is the country's worst disaster in years. As of Sunday evening, officials put the death toll at 153 and the number of injured people at 133. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said the death count could further rise as 37 of the injured people were in serious condition.

Ninety-seven of the dead were women and 56 were men. More

than 80% of the dead were in their 20s and 30s, but at least four were teenagers. At least 20 of the dead were foreigners from China, Russia, Iran and elsewhere. There is one American among the dead, the Interior Ministry said in a release.

An estimated 100,000 people had gathered in Itaewon for the country's biggest outdoor Halloween festivities since the pandemic began. The South Korean government had eased COVID-19 restrictions in recent months.

Witnesses said the streets were so densely clogged with people and slow-moving vehicles that it was practically impossible for emergency workers and ambulances to reach the alley near Hamilton Hotel swiftly.

Around 100 businesses in the Hamilton Hotel area have agreed to shut down their shops through Monday to reduce the number of partygoers who would come to the streets through Halloween day. While Halloween isn't a traditional holiday in South Korea — where children rarely go trick-or-treating — it's still a major attraction for young adults, and costume parties at bars and clubs have become hugely popular in recent years.

Itaewon, near where the former headquarters of U.S. military forces in South Korea operated for decades before moving out of the capital, is an expat-friendly district known for its trendy bars, clubs and restaurants. It's the city's marquee Halloween destination.

# USAF: Candidate's records incorrectly released

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The protected military personnel records of an Air National Guard officer who is running for a House seat in Indiana were incorrectly released by an Air Force employee, a service spokeswoman said Thursday.

An initial investigation revealed a “junior individual” within the Air Force Department was likely responsible for the wrongful release of military records for congressional candidate Jennifer-Ruth Green to an unnamed third party, said Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokeswoman.

Green, a 2005 Air Force Academy graduate and Iraq War veteran, is a Republican running for Indiana's 1st Congressional District seat. She served 12 years on active duty as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and she is now a lieutenant colonel in the Indiana Air National Guard.

Some of her records from her time on active duty, which by law should have been protected from public release, were published in a Politico Magazine article on Oct. 7 and revealed she was a sexual assault survivor.

Green has said in a statement and a subsequent interview that she had not planned to share publicly that she had been sexually assaulted while serving in Iraq. The records also included negative performance reviews, which should not have been released without Green's consent, according to law.

Stefanek said the individual who released Green's records did not “follow proper procedures and obtain required consent.”

“The Department of the Air Force takes its responsibility to safeguard private information seriously and the matter remains under investigation,” she said.

Indiana Republican Reps. Larry Bucshon and Jim Banks said

last week that Lt. Gen. Stephen Davis, the Air Force inspector general, told them that he was working to determine whether the person who released the protected information “had a political or financial motive, whether the leaker acted alone and if the Air Force needs to strengthen policies related to its handling of confidential records.”

Green's campaign has called for the individual to be held criminally responsible for releasing the records. Stefanek declined to say whether the ongoing probe could lead to criminal charges.

Federal law protects the full military records of service members from public release until they have been discharged from the military for 62 years. The public can obtain certain information earlier about veterans who were discharged via federal open records requests. That information typically would include their most recent service photograph,

their dates of service, their ranks, locations and units in which they served, and awards they received during their time in service. However, information including performance reviews or records of non-criminal punishments are protected from release to ensure a veteran's privacy, according to the National Personnel Records Center, which oversees the personnel records of veterans.

Green's campaign issued a statement accusing her opponent in the congressional race, Rep. Frank Mrvan, D-Ind., of obtaining the records and providing them to Politico to “smear her military career.”

Mrvan's campaign has denied any involvement in a leak of Green's protected military records. Politico said in a statement that it had obtained Green's records via a public records request, which were “provided to Politico by a person outside the Mrvan campaign.”

## No promotion for general involved in Jan. 6 riot response

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The White House rejected a recommendation by senior Pentagon officials to promote an Army general who came under intense scrutiny after the Pentagon's slow response to the riot at the Capitol, defense officials said, pushing the officer to a near-certain retirement.

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Piatt, the director of the Army staff, was backed to become the four-star general at Army Futures Command by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Army Secretary Christine Wormuth — both of whom were appointed by President Joe Biden — and Gen. James McConville, the Army's top officer, said two defense officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. The White House declined

to send a nomination for Piatt to the Senate for months, the officials said, effectively killing the possibility.

Piatt has agreed to stay in his present position for several more months at the request of McConville and Wormuth, and “has the full trust and confidence of Army senior leaders to execute the immense responsibility this position requires,” Army spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said. “With almost 40 years of active service, Lt. Gen. Piatt is eligible to retire this year but will remain as Director of the Army Staff until next summer.”

Piatt, through a spokesperson, declined to comment. The White House in September nominated another officer, Lt. Gen. James Rainey, to lead Futures Command and quickly gained confirmation for him. Rainey was pro-

moted to four-star general and took over at Futures Command in Austin, Texas, this month.

Defense News reported in September that Army officials feared Piatt's candidacy for the position was in trouble, and Rainey took the job the following month after it sat open for nearly a year. But some senior Pentagon officials were sympathetic to Piatt and disappointed he was denied, defense officials said.

A White House spokeswoman, Adrienne Watson, and a Pentagon spokesman, Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, both declined to comment on the situation, characterizing it as a personnel matter. They also declined to comment on when Piatt was recommended for the job.

The situation marks the latest fallout stemming from the attack

on Congress on Jan. 6, 2021.

Piatt found himself in political crosshairs within days of Jan. 6 after former Capitol Police chief Steven Sund, who resigned after the attack, accused the general of saying in a key meeting during the riot that he could not recommend to his boss at the time, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, that the D.C. National Guard be deployed to help police quell the violence. Piatt, Sund said, exasperated other senior U.S. officials on a conference call by expressing concerns about how it would look if military personnel responded.

Piatt initially denied Sund's allegations in a statement but acknowledged in a call with reporters about two weeks later that he had conferred with others who were present that it was possible he made comments to that effect.

# Affirmative action under threat amid court case

*Associated Press*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Once a bastion of segregation, the University of North Carolina now takes account of race to make up for its sordid history and to increase the number of Black students and other underrepresented minorities on campus.

Its affirmative action program, using race among many factors to build a diverse student body, is similar to plans in place at other selective public and private institutions.

But a Supreme Court that has twice blessed race-conscious college admissions programs in the past 19 years now seems poised to restrict their use or outlaw them altogether.

The case, following the overturning of the nearly 50-year precedent of *Roe v. Wade* in June, offers another test of whether the court now dominated by conservatives will move the nation's policies to the right

on another of its most contentious cultural issues.

The court is hearing two cases Monday, involving UNC and Harvard, the nation's oldest public and private universities, respectively.

The challengers to the universities' programs have lost at every step as lower courts have rejected their claims that the schools discriminate against white and Asian American applicants.

But Students for Fair Representation, the creation of conservative activist Ed Blum, has always pointed toward the nation's highest court, more conservative now that former President Donald Trump's three nominees are among the nine justices, as the best forum to roll back more than 40 years of court rulings that allow race to be one factor among many in admissions.

North Carolina's flagship university in Chapel Hill is a curi-

ous place to make that case.

The first Black students didn't arrive until 1951, and then only under court order. Into the 1980s, students reported they were subjected to racial slurs and astonishing displays of insensitivity, including being asked to do laundry by a white classmate, according to an account by historian David Cecelski that is included in court documents.

Even now, U.S. District Judge Loretta Biggs noted in her 2021 decision upholding the university's program, underrepresented minorities win admission to UNC at lower rates than do white and Asian American applicants and "minority students at the University still report being confronted with racial epithets, as well as feeling isolated, ostracized, stereotyped and viewed as tokens in a number of University spaces."

Defending its program, North Carolina wrote in its main brief

to the Supreme Court that the school "continues to have much work to do."

Blum's group has argued that the Constitution forbids any consideration of race. Students for Fair Admission said it draws support from the seminal case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 decision that paved the way for the desegregation of the nation's public schools. The group told the justices that Brown rejected many of the arguments UNC is making.

"It argues that racial classifications make everyone better off. It warns that universities cannot discard race quite yet. And it contends that the legality of its practices should be decided by North Carolinians, not this Court. The segregationists agreed," according to the group's final Supreme Court brief.

A decision in the affirmative action cases is not expected before late spring.

## King, Baker win at US Marine Corps Marathon

**By JOE GROMELSKI**

*Special to Stars and Stripes*

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Kyle King celebrated his 33rd birthday in style Sunday, opening up a big lead to win the 47th Marine Corps Marathon by more than three minutes.

King, of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, in Twentynine Palms, Calif., was timed in 2 hours, 19 minutes and 19 seconds; Jonathan Mott, of Lakeland, Fla., was second in 2:22.46. Third place went to Ryan Udvadia, of Clifton Park, N.Y., in 2:27.36.

"At mile 23 I saw that (Mott) was about two minutes behind me," King said. "So at that point I started feeling pretty confident that I was going to be able to win."

In the women's race, Chelsea Baker, 32, of Stroud, U.K., won in a time of 2:42.38; Cara Sherman of Clifton Park, N.Y., was second in 2:47.08 and Bonnie Keating, of San Diego, was third in 2:47.47.

King had hopes of a qualifying time for the Olympic trials going into the race, but the big lead kept him from keeping the pace he wanted. And now, he said, "we've got some big field ops coming up. My running training is going to take a dive, and my Marine training is going to be going up."

Runners from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 48 countries took part in the race, which was run in near-perfect conditions through the streets of Washington, D.C.

## Source: Man who entered Pelosi home had zip ties

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The man accused of attacking House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband carried zip ties with him when he broke into the couple's San Francisco home, according to a person briefed on the investigation.

The person was not authorized to publicly discuss the Pelosi case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday.

The attack on Democratic leader's 82-year-old husband, Paul Pelosi, less than two weeks before the Nov. 8 election that will determine control of Congress was a jarring reminder of the nation's toxic political climate.

Police said the suspect, identified as David DePape, 42, confronted Paul Pelosi in the family's

Pacific Heights home early Friday and, the AP has reported, demanded to know, "Where is Nancy?"

The two men struggled over a hammer before officers responding to a 911 call to the home saw DePape strike Paul Pelosi at least once, police said. DePape was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, elder abuse and burglary. He is expected to be arraigned this week.

Nancy Pelosi was in Washington when he husband was attacked. She soon returned to San Francisco, where he husband was hospitalized. He had surgery for a skull fracture, and suffered other injuries to his arms and hands, her office said.

Paul Pelosi remains hospitalized and "continues to improve," she told colleagues.

# Ariz. AG gives counties OK for full ballot hand counts

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona's Republican attorney general has issued an opinion saying county officials can hand-count all ballots in at least five races from the Nov. 8 election, a move that gives a green light to GOP officials in at least two counties who have been clamoring for hand counts.

The efforts to hand-count ballots are driven by unfounded concerns among some Republicans that problems with vote-counting machines or voter fraud led to former President Donald Trump's 2020 defeat.

The new attorney general opinion led the two Republicans on the three-member Cochise County board of supervisors to boost their plan to hand-count some races in both early and Election Day ballots. They had pledged to pare back the effort on Wednesday.

Under state law, the local leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties would have to provide hundreds of volunteers to do the counts.

At a fiery meeting Friday, Democratic Supervisor Ann English said she'll do everything she can to stop the county Demo-

cratic Party chair from providing those workers.

"It would be my fondest hope, that if I have any authority, any way that I can convince the chair of the Democratic party in Cochise County not to provide people for this fiasco that will be my intent," English said. "Because I think that every day that we're discussing this, then people are wondering 'what's wrong with our elections.'"

That comment came after GOP Supervisor Peggy Judd said she wanted to move ahead, and Republican Supervisor Tom Crosby pushed back strongly on English's opposition and effort to halt the full count.

"I'm OK talking about how this will be done, but all you want to do is make it not get done," Crosby said. "So, I'm not interested in that discussion — I'm interested in the discussion of how it will get done."

The Cochise County Democratic Party referred inquiries about whether they would send volunteers for the expanded hand count to the state party on Saturday.

The hand count would take place along with the machine count, and the machine count will be used for the legal results.

# Powerball prize climbs to \$1B without winner

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Powerball jackpot keeps getting larger because players keep losing.

It happened again Saturday night as no one matched all six numbers and won the estimated \$825 million grand prize. That means the next drawing Monday night will be for a massive \$1 billion, according to a statement by Powerball.

The winning numbers Saturday night were: white balls 19, 31, 40, 46, 57 and the red power ball 23.

The increased jackpot will be the second-largest in U.S. history. The biggest prize was a \$1.586 billion Powerball jackpot won by three ticketholders in 2016.

Although the advertised top prize will be an estimated \$1 billion, that is for winners who receive their winnings through an annuity paid over 29 years. Winners almost always opt for cash, which for Monday's drawing will be an estimated \$497.3 million.

The \$825 million jackpot for Saturday's draw increased from \$800 million on Friday as a result of strong ticket sales, Powerball said.

# Judge rules on care for inmate who severed penis

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Tennessee judge on Friday ordered prison officials to provide better care for a death row inmate being held in restraints after he cut off his penis.

Riverbend Maximum Security Institution must provide clothing and other necessities to Henry Hodges while he recovers but can keep him restrained for his safety, Davidson County Chancellor I'Ashea Myles ordered Friday. Hodges has been naked and restrained by his arms and legs on a thin mattress over a concrete slab since Oct. 21, when he returned to prison after being hospitalized for his injury, said Kelley Henry, an attorney for Hodges.

Henry had filed an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order against prison officials on Friday morning after visiting Hodges in prison the previous day.

Without an emergency order from the court, "the risk of irreparable harm is great," she had said. Hodges could have

bedsores, develop sepsis and die, she argued. "And the lack of mental stimulation constitutes torture."

Arguing for the Tennessee Department of Correction, Deputy Attorney General Scott Sutherland had said the judge shouldn't second-guess the judgment of the prison doctors.

"He is being provided around-the-clock care," Sutherland said of Hodges. "He's being evaluated every 24 hours to determine whether the use of restraints is necessary."

On Friday, Myles ordered prison officials to provide Hodges with clothing and care for his extremities and back.

Myles prohibited the prison from "any treatment that constitutes cruel and unusual punishment" or violates Hodges' rights.

According to the complaint, Hodges periodically suffers from psychotic episodes. One of those began around Oct. 3, when Hodges started smearing feces on the walls of his cell. Rather than provide him with

mental health treatment, prison officers began withholding food from Hodges, according to the complaint.

On Oct. 7, Hodges broke a window out in his cell and used a razor to slit his left wrist. In the infirmary, he told the treatment provider he needed to go on suicide watch. However, he was returned to a cell where, less than an hour later, he severed his penis from his body with a razor blade, according to the complaint.

Hodges was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where surgeons reattached his penis. Despite holding Hodges' medical power of attorney, Henry was not allowed to see him during the two weeks he was there.

When he returned to the prison, he was placed naked in restraints in a cell with "no television, radio, or any other means of mental stimulation" that is lit up day and night. He was left to lie in his own defecation at one point and has stopped eating, according to the complaint.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Bus crashes after driver jumps out to flee gunman**

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City bus driver jumped out of his window to escape a man who had come on board with a gun that looked real and the bus later crashed into a utility pole, police said.

The New York Police Department said a 44-year-old man with a gun in his waistband ran in front of the bus as it went down a Queens street. The man got on board when the driver hit the brakes, sat behind the driver and said to keep going, police said.

Officials said the driver, a 21-year veteran of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, didn't move until the 20 or so passengers were able to get off. He then continued for about 30 blocks before jumping out of the window, police said.

Authorities said the man tried to control the bus himself but it crashed into a utility pole about a block away. He got off and was taken into custody, and police recovered what they described as an imitation pistol.

The man and the driver were both taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Charges against the man were pending.

**Ex-JROTC instructor sentenced for child porn**

**HI** HONOLULU — A former Junior ROTC instructor has been sentenced to 14 years in prison for sexually exploiting one of his Hawaii high school students.

A U.S. judge sentenced Victor Aguilar, 66. He previously pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of child pornogra-

phy.

According to his plea agreement, Aguilar used his cellphone to create video clips of a girl engaging in sexually explicit conduct in 2020.

The girl was one of his students in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or JROTC, at Waimea High School on the island of Kauai, court documents said.

"Moreover, Aguilar admitted that, by his estimate, he had sexual contact with the minor victim approximately 25 times over a six-month period," prosecutors said in a news release. "This sexual exploitation of the minor victim occurred at school, in his vehicle, and in his home."

**7 hurt when amusement park train derails**

**MO** BRANSON — Seven people suffered what were described as minor injuries after an amusement park train derailed in Branson, Mo.

The derailment happened at Silver Dollar City. Six patrons and one employee were taken by ambulance to hospitals after the Frisco Silver Dollar Line Steam Train derailed, the amusement park said in a statement.

Stone County Emergency Management Director Tom Martin said three cars derailed, falling onto their side. Martin said no one appeared to have any broken bones or other serious injuries.

The train takes passengers on a 20-minute ride through the countryside, a ride interrupted by a pretend train robbery, according to Silver Dollar City's

website.

The Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the accident.

**Explosives topple former coal-fired power plant**

**MN** GRANITE FALLS — A decommissioned coal-fired power plant in western Minnesota crashed to the ground with a thunderous boom as part of a planned implosion that marks the end of an era in Granite Falls.

Xcel Energy — the utility company that owns the Minnesota Valley Generating Station — used explosives to implode the nearly century-old structure as onlookers watched from a distance.

Video from onlooker Nathan Dahlager showed a flash of bright orange light and a loud crack at the base of the massive plant. With an even louder crash, two towering smokestacks toppled as the rest of the building collapsed. Black debris flew in the air as dark smoke filled the space where the structure stood just moments before. Dahlager posted the video to Twitter with a caption: "Landmark in our community reduced to dust! Really neat to watch."

The coal-fired plant dated back to the 1930s and closed in 2009 amid the ongoing shift to cleaner energy sources, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

**Players arrested; coach out after alleged hazing**

**LA** LUTCHER — Three football players at a Louisiana middle school have been expelled and arrested on

criminal hazing counts and their coach has been ousted.

The Advocate reported that the actions centered on two 13-year-olds and a 14-year-old at Lutch Middle School.

St. James Parish sheriff's deputies said that they arrested the boys over accusations that they hazed six students in the middle school football locker room earlier this school year.

Sheriff Willy Martin Jr. released a statement saying hazing acts "ranged from victims being beaten with belts, victims being stuffed into garbage cans and victims forced or beaten to say racial words."

The ousted middle school coach declined comment.

**Man injured in mountains when bear gets into cabin**

**TN** GATLINBURG — A man was injured when a black bear went into his cabin in the Smoky Mountains and charged at him, officials said.

The man found the bear when he went into the kitchen of the rental cabin near downtown Gatlinburg, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency said. The bear entered through a set of French doors that were locked but not deadbolted, wildlife officers told news outlets.

A trap was set and a bear fitting the description was caught and euthanized.

The bear injured the man's head and scratched him across his back. The man locked himself in a bedroom and called 911. He was driven to a hospital by his family later and treated there.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Valdez helps Astros pull even in World Series

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Framber Valdez swapped his glove and his spikes midgame. He repeatedly rubbed his hands.

By the time he strode off the mound to a standing ovation and handed the Houston Astros' bullpen a seventh-inning lead, it was clear he had thrown a curve at the Philadelphia Phillies.

"This was a really good game for the fans, a really good game for our team and also for me," he said through a translator after pitching the Astros over the Phillies 5-2 Saturday night to tie the World Series at one game apiece. "I've just been playing really inspired."

Valdez made a five-run lead stand up after Houston's lightning first-inning burst and Alex Bregman homered as the Astros rushed to a 5-0 lead for the second straight night. Unlike ace Justin Verlander in the opener, Valdez and Houston held on.

"His curveball was on tonight," Phillies star Bryce Harper said after going 0-for-4. "It was big, sharp."

Houston became the first team to open a Series game with three straight extra-base hits, and Valdez pitched shutout ball into the seventh, rebounding from a pair of poor outings

against Atlanta last year that had left him with a 19.29 Series ERA.

He threw 42 curveballs among 104 pitches and got six of nine strikeouts with that pitch, three of them looking. He allowed four hits and one run in 6⅓ innings, giving up a leadoff double in the seventh to Nick Castellanos, who scored on Jean Segura's sacrifice fly off Rafael Montero.

Valdez said his hand-rubbing was inconsequential.

"Nobody should think of it as anything like in the wrong way. I do it out in the open," he said. "It's all tendencies I do. I do it throughout the game, maybe distract the hitter a little bit from what I'm doing, like maybe look at me, rubbing different things, and nothing about the pitch that I'm going to throw. I've been doing it all season."

Valdez started the game with a tan glove and spikes with orange and yellow trim, then swapped ahead of the second inning for a dark glove and dark cleats with a white stripe.

"Normally have different spikes when I warm up and the ones that I go into the game. Today I decided to start the game with the ones I warmed up in," he said. "I had a long inning

there and I was like, 'You know what? I'm going to change everything. I'm going to change my glove, my belt, my cleats.' And those are just things that us Dominicans do, just some tendencies here and there."

When the Phillies put two runners on for the only time against him in the sixth, Valdez struck out Game 1 star J.T. Realmuto with high heat, then got Harper to bounce a first-pitch sinker into an inning-ending double play.

Phillies manager Rob Thomson didn't take issue with Valdez rubbing his palm — but social media was abuzz, wondering if there was some banned sticky substance.

"The umpires check these guys after almost every inning, and if there's something going on MLB will take care of it," Thomson said. "We saw it the last time he started, too."

Jose Altuve, Jeremy Peña and Yordan Alvarez all doubled as Houston took a two-run lead four pitches in against Zack Wheeler. Shortstop Edmundo Sosa's throwing error allowed another run in the first.

Bregman added a two-run homer in the fifth when Wheeler left a slider over the middle of the plate, Bregman's sixth career Series homer.

A day after coming back for a 6-5 win in 10 innings, Philadelphia tried to rally in this one, too.

With the Phillies trailing by four runs, Kyle Schwarber hit a drive deep down the right-field line with a man on in the eighth against Montero that was originally ruled a two-run homer by right field line umpire James Hoye.

First base umpire Tripp Gibson at first signaled for umps to conference and the call was reversed on a crew chief review when it was determined the ball was just to the foul side of the pole.

Ryan Pressly finished a six-hitter for a bullpen that lowered its postseason ERA to 0.89, giving up a run when first baseman Yuli Gurriel allowed Brandon Marsh's grounder to skip past him and down the right-field line for an error.

Following the split in Houston, the Series resumes Monday night when Citizens Bank Park hosts the Series for the first time since 2009.

RHP Noah Syndergaard will start Game 3 for the Phillies and RHP Lance McCullers Jr. for the Astros. Phillies LHP Ranger Suárez will take the mound for Game 4, and likely LHP Cristian Javier for Houston.

# Wilson, Broncos end 4-game skid with win over Jaguars

Associated Press

LONDON — Latavius Murray scored on a 2-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter to help the Denver Broncos snap a four-game losing streak by beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 21-17 on Sunday at Wembley Stadium.

Russell Wilson led two go-ahead scoring drives in the second half on his return from a hamstring injury. Wilson finished 18-for-30 for 252 yards with a touchdown and interception.

The embattled quarterback looked rusty early, but connected on a 47-yard completion to KJ Hamler after the Broncos fell behind 17-14 on Travis Etienne's 1-yard

touchdown run with 3:54 to play. Wilson then scrambled for 10 yards on a third-and-5 to get to the Jacksonville 28.

The late score gave Murray a touchdown for two different teams this month in London. He ran for a score for New Orleans earlier this month at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Broncos (3-5) managed to erase a 10-point deficit thanks to Jerry Jeudy's 6-yard touchdown reception in the first half and Melvin Gordon's 1-yard run to complete a 98-yard scoring drive early in the second half.

The announced attendance of 86,215 is the largest crowd in the history of NFL in-

ternational games.

The Jaguars (2-6) lost their fifth consecutive game despite a career day from Etienne, who carried 24 times for 156 yards and a touchdown.

Etienne scored on a 1-yard plunge to give Jacksonville a 17-14 lead with 3:54 to play.

After Murray's touchdown with 1:43 remaining, Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence threw an interception to K'Waun Williams at the Jacksonville 35.

Lawrence had a costly red zone interception on a first-and-goal from the 1 in the first half. Lawrence was 18-for-31 for 133 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

# Hornets spoil Curry's homecoming, top Warriors

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Hornets were coming off a 20-point road loss to the Orlando Magic, playing on the second night of a back-to-back and without their starting front court of LaMelo Ball and Terry Rozier.

So they had no chance against the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors, right?

Well, think again.

P.J. Washington erupted for 31 points, Gordon Hayward added 23 and the Hornets once again spoiled Stephen Curry's annual homecoming game with a 120-113 overtime win over the Warriors on Saturday night.

Kelly Oubre Jr added 18 points as the Hornets beat the Warriors for the fourth straight year at the Spectrum Center, just a few miles from where Curry grew up.

"They obviously understand who is coming into the building so they don't want to give us anything easy," Curry said. "We knew they were going to come out aggressive and with a sense of pride, and they did that."

Curry scored 31 points and had 11 rebounds to pace the Warriors, but missed a tightly contested three-pointer at the end of regulation that would have won the game. He also air-balled a three in overtime and finished 3-for-13 from beyond the arc.

Jordan Poole had 24 points off the bench for Golden State.

In the extra period, Jalen McDaniels knocked down a momentum-turning three-pointer from the left wing and Dennis Smith Jr. scored on a drive to the hole to give the Hornets the lead for good at 116-111.

Curry made two free throws but Washington scored again inside, muscling a shot up and in to push the lead back to five. Washington had six points in the overtime period.

"It goes to show we have a lot of character," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said. "We played poorly last night. ... but you could just tell in shootaround. I didn't know we were going to win, but I knew we were going to play well. Just the way they walked into the building and the way they were talking to each other."

Smith finished with 13 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Charlotte. He was all over Curry on the final possession of regulation, not allowing him to get to the basket or get a decent look at a three-pointer.

**Thunder 117, Mavericks 111 (OT):** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points, and visiting Oklahoma City erased an eight-point deficit in the final two minutes of regulation in an overtime victory against Dallas.

The Mavericks turned a one-point deficit after three quar-

ters into a 15-point lead without Luka Doncic, and the Thunder stormed back from 16 down after the Dallas star returned.

Doncic had his fifth consecutive 30-point game to start the season with 31, but was just 8-for-23 from the field. He had his second straight triple-double with 16 rebounds and 10 assists.

Isaiah Joe, who didn't play until the fourth quarter, scored eight of his 15 points in overtime, including a 3-pointer that broke a 101-all tie and started a 7-0 run in the extra period.

**Bucks 123, Hawks 115:** Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jrue Holiday each scored 34 points as host Milwaukee responded after falling behind in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta and remain unbeaten.

Antetokounmpo scored 30 of his 34 points after halftime and also had 17 rebounds. Holiday also had 12 assists as the Bucks withstood Trae Young's 42-point effort and improved to 5-0.

Dejounte Murray scored 21, Hunter had 14 points and Clint Capela had 11 for the Hawks.

**76ers 114, Bulls 109:** Joel Embiid scored 25 points and made a tiebreaking three-pointer to help visiting Philadelphia squeeze by Chicago.

It was tied at 109 after the Bulls' Nikola Vucevic made two foul shots with 1:10 left in the game.

Embiid then missed two free

throws, and Zach LaVine missed a 19-footer. Embiid then nailed a three to give the Sixers a 112-109 lead with 18.1 seconds remaining.

**Pacers 125, Nets 116:** Rookie Bennedict Mathurin scored a career-high 32 points, Tyrese Haliburton added 26 and visiting Indiana beat Brooklyn.

Mathurin made a career-best six of Indiana's 23 three-pointers.

Kyrie Irving scored 35 points on 13-for-22 shooting from the field for the struggling Nets, who have lost their last four games.

**Kings 119, Heat 113:** Kevin Huerter scored 27 points, hitting seven three-pointers, to help host Sacramento win for the first time this season by beating Miami.

It's the first victory for Kings coach Mike Brown, who was hired this past offseason. The Los Angeles Lakers are the last winless team in the NBA.

Kings rookie Keegan Murray scored a career-best 22 points.

**Jazz 124, Grizzlies 123:** Lauri Markkanen and Kelly Olynyk each scored 23 points, including a pair of late three-pointers, to lift host Utah to a win over Memphis, which was playing without Ja Morant.

Desmond Bane had 32 points and Dillon Brooks had 30 points to help make up for Morant's 32.6 scoring average. He missed the game with a non-COVID illness.

# Arline leads Navy to overtime win against Temple

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Quarterback Xavier Arline scored on a 23-yard run in overtime and Navy outlasted Temple 27-20 on Saturday.

Dashaun Peele then intercepted E.J. Warner in the end zone on fourth-and-11 from the 13 to wrap up the game.

Daniel Davies sandwiched two field goals around a 15-yard touchdown run by Daba Fofana to give Navy (3-5, 3-3 Amer-

ican Athletic Conference) a 13-0 lead after one quarter.

Temple (2-6, 0-4) closed to within 13-10 when Layton Jordan forced and recovered a fumble by Arline in the end zone for a touchdown just 1:11 into the third quarter. Anton Hall answered with a 16-yard scoring run and the Midshipmen took a 20-10 lead into the final quarter.

Warner, a freshman and the son of Hall-of-Fame quarterback Kurt Warner, hit

Amad Anderson Jr. for a 20-yard score and Camden Price kicked a 22-yard field goal with 1:08 left to play to send it to overtime.

Navy, which attempted just two passes (both incomplete), rushed for 224 yards on 70 carries, led by the 63 of Fofana.

Warner completed 24 of 48 passes for 268 yards with two interceptions for the Owls. Anderson finished with eight catches for 114 yards.

# Islanders rally from 3 down to beat Avs

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scott Mayfield and Anthony Beauvillier scored 17 seconds apart midway through the third period and the New York Islanders overcame a three-goal deficit to beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-4 on Saturday night.

Brock Nelson, Zach Parise and Noah Dobson also scored for the Islanders. They scored five straight goals after falling behind 3-0 midway through the second period. Semyon Varlamov had 33 saves to help New York win its third straight.

Evan Rodrigues had two goals and an assist, Mikko Rantanen added a goal and an assist, and Alex Newhook also scored for the defending champion Avalanche. Alexander Georgiev had 39 saves.

**Panthers 5, Senators 3:** Brandon Montour scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:32 remaining and host Florida beat Ottawa.

Carter Verhaeghe had two goals and an assist for the Panthers, Aleksander Barkov and Matthew Tkachuk each had a goal and two assists, and Montour also had two assists. Spencer Knight made 23 saves.

**Kings 4, Maple Leafs 2:** Ke-

vin Fiala had a goal and an assist and Adrian Kempe and Viktor Arvidsson scored power-play goals in the second period in host Los Angeles' victory over Toronto.

Gabriel Vilardi also scored during the Kings' three-goal second period, and captain Anze Kopitar had two assists. Cal Petersen made 26 saves in an encouraging bounce-back victory for Los Angeles, which had lost three of four after a solid start to the season.

**Rangers 6, Stars 3:** Zac Jones and Julien Gauthier scored 19 seconds apart in the third period after Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger left because of an injury, and visiting New York took advance against backup Scott Wedgewood.

Vincent Trocheck had two goals, including the last in a three-goal third period for New York and fourth against Wedgewood.

**Oilers 3, Flames 2:** Zach Hyman scored twice, Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists and visiting Edmonton rallied to beat Calgary.

McDavid tied it at 2 at 9:02 of the third with his NHL-leading ninth goal and set up Hyman's winner with 7:36 left.

**Lightning 4, Sharks 3:** Nikita Kucherov broke a tie with 56 seconds left and visiting Tampa Bay beat San Jose.

Tomas Hagel set up Kucherov for a tap-in on a 2-on-1. Victor Hedman, Ross Colton and Alex Killorn also scored for the Lightning and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 24 saves.

**Red Wings 2, Wild 1:** Lucas Raymond scored his first two goals of the season, Ville Husso made 30 saves and host Detroit beat Minnesota to end a two-game losing streak.

Raymond finally broke through in the eighth game of the season after scoring 23 times last season as a rookie.

**Kraken 3, Penguins 1:** Jordan Eberle scored midway through the second period after his team had two goals disallowed by challenges, Morgan Geekie scored late in the second and host Seattle handed Pittsburgh its fourth straight loss.

Jaden Schwartz added an empty-net goal, and Martin Jones stopped 31 shots.

**Capitals 3, Predators 0:** Darcy Kuemper made 34 saves for his first shutout with his new team and visiting Washington beat Nashville.

Beck Malenstyn, Aliaksei Protas and Alex Ovechkin scored to help the Capitals win for the third time in four games.

**Canadiens 7, Blues 4:** Christian Dvorak had his first NHL hat trick and visiting Montreal scored three times in a 4:50 span in the second period to rally past St. Louis.

Dvorak completed the hat trick into an empty net with 1:35 remaining in the third period. He broke through after 13 two-goal games.

**Hurricanes 4, Flyers 3 (OT):** Brent Burns scored on a one-timer 4:06 into overtime and visiting Carolina rallied to beat Philadelphia.

Martin Necas and Jordan Staal each had a goal and an assist, and Jordan Martinook also scored for Carolina. Antti Raanta stopped 26 shots.

**Sabres 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT):** Victor Olofsson scored his second goal of the game 36 seconds into overtime to lift host Buffalo past Chicago.

Buffalo had dropped two in a row. The Sabres trailed 3-1 after two periods, but Tage Thompson scored twice in the third. Craig Anderson made 23 saves.

# MVP Smith helps Thorns beat Current for NWSL title

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sophia Smith and the Portland Thorns overcame challenges off the field this season with a championship on it.

Smith, the season's Most Valuable Player, scored early and the Thorns won their third National Women's Soccer League title Saturday night with a 2-0 victory over the Kansas City Current.

The Thorns also won NWSL championships in 2013, the league's inaugural season, and 2017. The three titles are the most for any team in the league.

A recent report that revealed misconduct across the league impacted the Thorns directly, but the players said it brought them together.

"We've put in so much work this whole season. We've gone through a lot of stuff that isn't in the job description," Smith said. "So it just felt really rewarding. I felt so proud of our team because we've just gone through so much — and to be able to bring this back to our fans who have stuck with us through everything this year, it means so much to us."

The Current had a costly turnover before Smith went down the field, maneuvered around goalkeeper Adrianna Franch and deftly scored in the fourth minute.

Smith nearly had another goal in the 27th minute, but her shot went just wide. Smith is the second MVP recipient to score in the championship game, joining Lynn Williams for North Carolina in 2016. At 22, she's also the youngest player to score in a league final.

Smith was honored as MVP earlier this week after scoring a club-record 14 goals during the regular season. She was also chosen the championship game MVP.

An own goal off Kansas City's Addisyn Merrick doubled Portland's lead in the 56th minute. Moments later, Morgan Weaver had a shot from distance but Franch got a hand on it before it hit the crossbar and caromed away.

"This one hurts," Current coach Matt Potter said. "It's just a moment, to put it into the bigger picture. Then obviously, we have a lot of reasons to celebrate right now and this year that we can all look back on, maybe tomorrow or the next day, and be very proud of it. I think we've talked all along that our best days are ahead of us, not behind us."