

Drone incursions targeting Kremlin foes

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Central and northern European countries have been subjected to more than 40 recent drone incursions, which a new report mapping them says are primarily directed at NATO's staunchest opponents of Russia.

Military bases and civilian infrastructure such as airports are among the locations where the sightings have occurred, the Center for European Policy Analysis said in the report published Monday.

"Countries foremost in supporting Ukraine, sharply increasing defense spending and demanding robust NATO action against the Kremlin" are bearing the brunt of the campaign, according to the report. It specified Poland, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

Among the most disruptive in-

trusions in the past few days occurred in the southern German city of Munich, where the international airport was forced to temporarily shut down twice during a 24-hour span.

Additional countries that have been targeted include Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, the report added.

The list did not include southern European countries, such as Romania, that also have dealt with drone incursions.

"Not all these incidents can be traced back to Russia (and some initially appear innocuous), but many appear considered and malign," the report said. "The incursions are now occurring almost daily and include swarms of drones flying in formation."

Although the list is not all-encompassing, it underscores the challenges Europe faces as it tries

to counter a growing threat from drones while also anticipating the possibility of a drawdown of the U.S. military presence on the Continent.

While it's still unclear who was behind the Munich incidents, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Sunday pointed the finger at the Kremlin. "We suspect that a significant portion of it is probably controlled from Russia," Merz said on German television.

Drones have also forced brief airport closures in Norway, Germany and Denmark in recent days.

The sightings follow a pattern of disrupting airports, approaching military facilities and critical infrastructure, CEPA said.

Some security analysts say Moscow is using drone incursions to test alliance response times and gauge NATO's unity in dealing

with drone threats.

On Sept. 9-10, numerous Russian drones were shot down in Poland, marking the first time in history that alliance aircraft were called on to shoot down a threat inside the bloc.

However, the NATO response doesn't appear to have dissuaded Russia from other unauthorized drone flights.

For example, days after the Poland incident, Russian drones were spotted in Romania.

The situation ratcheted up further on Sept. 19, when three Russian fighter planes flew into Estonian airspace, where they lingered for more than 10 minutes.

Some allies have called for NATO to take a tougher position and shoot down Russian planes if they cross into alliance territory.

Secretary-General Mark Rutte has said NATO will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Food, rent on military families' minds amid shutdown

Stars and Stripes

One week into a federal government shutdown, service members, Defense Department civilian employees and their families in Japan and South Korea were taking stock and asking how much longer.

From Washington, D.C., came little news Tuesday of any attempt to end the deadlock that began Oct. 1. Without an agreement to fund the government for the new fiscal year, many government offices go dark, and the military serves without pay.

Americans with the U.S. military in the Pacific asked how they will afford groceries and rent if the shutdown continues.

Navy veteran Justus Casino, 36, a supervisory library technician at the Marine Corps' Camp

Foster on Okinawa, is going unpaid, he said Tuesday.

"In the back of my head, I am worried," he said at the Foster library.

"What happens when it's time for groceries?" he said. "What if it extends to next week? What happens when my kids need food? There's a lot of kinds of 'ifs' about what's going to happen."

Two property management firms reported that the Okinawa Military Family Housing office on Kadena Air Base has asked them to waive late fees on rental payments.

Tokuzato Housing waived October's fees and is awaiting guidance for November, employee Yuki Itokazu said by phone Tuesday. Five or six of

their 800-plus military tenants asked Tokuzato to waive the fee.

"The next paycheck is going to affect a lot of people," she said.

Another 10-15 tenants, mostly service members, sought rent extensions or fee waivers from Seaside Housing on Okinawa, front office manager Roberto Harding said by phone Tuesday. The company rents to about 600 DOD families.

"Right now, we're trying to work with them depending on how long the shutdown lasts," he said. "If we can waive late fees, we're going to try and do that."

Jenny Goodyear, director of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, by phone

Monday said the society, so far, has not been affected.

That could change Oct. 15, which would be the first missed payday for active-duty service members, she said.

"We have had a couple people come in kind of preemptively, but our policy is to wait until the pay is actually missed and we're able to help them," she said.

At U.S. bases in South Korea, the shutdown was a growing concern.

"With two kids, you can't risk cabinets going empty, so we're grabbing what we can while it's available," said Army spouse Ashton Little at the Camp Humphreys commissary Monday. "I hope this doesn't last long, but if it does, we will look to the Korean markets."

Illinois braces for possible arrival of Guard

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Officials in Illinois braced Tuesday for the possible arrival of the National Guard while a legal challenge to President Donald Trump's plan to send hundreds of troops to the Chicago area still simmers and critics vigorously pan the deployment as an assault on the city.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, has said some 300 of the state's guard troops were to be federalized and sent to Chicago, along with 400 from Texas.

"He wants to justify and normalize the presence of armed soldiers under his direct command," Pritzker said of Trump.

He accused the president of using troops as "political props" and "pawns."

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday posted a pic-

ture on social media showing Texas National Guard members boarding a plane, but he didn't specify where they were going.

A federal judge gave the Trump administration two days to respond to a lawsuit filed Monday by Illinois and Chicago challenging the plan. A hearing is scheduled for Thursday. The lawsuit says, "these advances in President Trump's long-declared 'War' on Chicago and Illinois are unlawful and dangerous."

Trump's bid to deploy the military on U.S. soil over local opposition has triggered a conflict with blue state governors. In Oregon, a judge over the weekend blocked the Guard's deployment to Portland. The Trump administration has portrayed the cities as war-ravaged and lawless amid its crackdown on illegal immigra-

tion. Officials in Illinois and Oregon, however, say military intervention isn't needed and that federal involvement is inflaming the situation.

The sight of armed Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous landmarks has amplified concerns from Chicagoans already uneasy after an immigration crackdown that began last month. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed an executive order Monday barring federal immigration agents and others from using city-owned property as staging areas for enforcement operations.

The ACLU of Illinois is also suing the federal government, accusing it of unleashing a campaign of violence and intimidat-

tion against peaceful protesters and journalists during weeks of demonstrations outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Broadview, near Chicago.

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in response to the lawsuit that "the First Amendment protects speech and peaceful assembly — not rioting."

In Oregon, the Portland ICE facility has been the site of nightly protests for months, peaking in June when police declared a riot, with smaller clashes occurring since then. In recent weeks, the nightly protests typically drew a couple dozen people — until the deployment was announced. Over the weekend, larger crowds gathered outside the facility, and federal agents fired tear gas.

In tit for tat, more states move to redraw US House districts

Associated Press

A mid-decade battle over congressional redistricting is playing out in state capitals, in courtrooms and on the ballot.

The efforts to redraw U.S. House districts for partisan advantage got jump-started when President Donald Trump called upon Republican-led Texas to reshape districts so that the GOP could win more seats in next year's elections.

Since then, lawmakers in Democratic-led California and Republican-led Missouri have approved revised districts, and officials in more states are considering it. Utah's Republican-led Legislature endorsed an altered congressional map Monday — though in response to a court order, not Trump's demands.

U.S. House districts typically are redrawn once a decade, immediately after a census. But some states have no prohibition on doing it more frequently. And the U.S. Supreme Court has said

there is no federal prohibition on political gerrymandering, in which districts are intentionally drawn to favor one party.

The stakes are high, because Democrats need to gain just three seats in the 2026 elections to take control of the House, which would allow them to impede Trump's agenda. The president's party historically has lost seats in midterm elections, a fate Trump is trying to avoid.

■ **Texas judges hear legal challenge to new districts:** Federal judges in Texas are considering a legal challenge to new congressional districts passed at Trump's urging during a special legislative session in August. Civil rights groups and dozens of Black and Hispanic voters contend the new map intentionally reduces minority voters' influence in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution.

Republicans hold 25 of the 38 congressional seats in Texas. The revised map could give Republi-

cans a shot at picking up five additional seats next year.

■ **California voters are deciding on new House districts:** Voting began Monday in California in advance of a Nov. 4 election that will determine whether new congressional districts are implemented.

Democrats already hold 43 of California's 52 seats. But after Texas undertook redistricting, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom urged California lawmakers to reciprocate. They did so by passing a revised U.S. House map that could give Democrats a chance to gain five additional seats.

Unlike Texas, California has an independent citizens' commission that handles redistricting after the census. So any changes to the map need voter approval.

■ **Missouri redistricting faces potential referendum:** After Texas and California took action, Missouri lawmakers passed a revised U.S. House map designed to give Republicans a shot at winning

seven of the state's eight districts — one more than they currently hold. Opponents are pursuing a referendum petition that, if successful, would force a statewide vote on the new map.

■ **Utah lawmakers back new U.S. House map:** Utah's Republican-led Legislature passed a revised U.S. House map Monday that could give Democrats an improved chance at competing for a seat. Republicans currently hold all four of the state's seats.

The revised map would place Democratic-leaning Salt Lake City in a single district that stretches into rural areas, instead of splitting the city among multiple districts. But the revision still must be reviewed by a judge, who is expected to approve a new map by November.

A Utah judge in August struck down the House districts adopted after the 2020 census because the Legislature circumvented an independent redistricting commission established by voters.

Supreme Court skeptical about banning conversion therapy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A majority of Supreme Court justices Tuesday seemed to lean in favor of a Christian counselor challenging bans on LGBTQ “conversion therapy” for kids as a violation of her First Amendment rights.

Kaley Chiles, with support from President Donald Trump’s administration, argues the laws passed in Colorado and about half of U.S. states wrongly bar her from offering voluntary, faith-based therapy for kids. Colorado, on the other hand, says the measure simply regulates licensed therapists by barring a practice that’s been scientifically discredited and linked to serious harm.

But the court’s conservative majority didn’t seem convinced that states can restrict talk therapy aimed at changing feelings or behavior while allowing

counseling that affirms kids identifying as gay or transgender. Justice Samuel Alito said the law “looks like blatant viewpoint discrimination.”

The arguments come months after the court found other states can ban transition-related health care for transgender youths, a setback for LGBTQ rights. The justices are also expected to hear a case about sports participation by transgender players this term.

Colorado has not sanctioned anyone under the 2019 law, which exempts religious ministries. State attorneys say it still allows any therapist to have wide-ranging, faith-based conversations with young patients about gender and sexuality.

“The only thing that the law prohibits therapists from doing is performing a treatment that seeks the predetermined outcome of changing a minor’s sex-

ual orientation or gender identity because that treatment is unsafe and ineffective,” Colorado state attorneys wrote.

Therapy isn’t just speech, they said — it’s health care that governments have a responsibility to regulate.

Chiles contends her approach is different from the kind of conversion therapy once associated with practices like shock therapy decades ago. She said she believes “people flourish when they live consistently with God’s design, including their biological sex,” and she argues evidence of harm from her approach is lacking.

Chiles says Colorado is discriminating because it allows counselors to affirm minors coming out as gay or identifying as transgender but bans counseling like hers for young patients who may want to change their behavior or feelings.

Trump talks love, conflict with Canada during visit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said there’s “mutual love” but “natural conflict” between the United States and Canada as he sat down with Prime Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday in the Oval Office.

Carney’s second visit to the United States comes as one of the world’s most durable and amicable alliances has been fractured by Trump’s trade war and annexation threats. Among the topics up for discussion are trade and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is critical to Canada’s economy and is up for a review next year.

Trump said he was willing to revisit the free trade agreement, which was enacted during his first term, or seek “different deals.”

“We could renegotiate it, and that would be good, or we can just do different deals,” he said. “We’re allowed to do different deals.”

Trump described Carney as a “world class leader” and said he’s a tough negotiator.

“We want Canada to do great,” Trump said. “But you know, there’s a point at which we also want the same business.”

Asked why the U.S. and Canada have failed to reach a deal on trade, Trump said it’s a complicated situation.

“We have natural conflict,” he said. “We also have mutual love.”

Carney balked at the word “conflict.”

“There are areas where we compete, and it’s in those areas where we have to come to an agreement that works. But there are more areas where we are stronger together, and that’s what we’re focused on.”

Bondi tells congressional hearing she has not weaponized Justice Department

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Pam Bondi repeatedly deflected questions as she sought during a combative congressional hearing on Tuesday to defend herself against growing criticism that she’s turning the Justice Department into a weapon to seek vengeance against President Donald Trump’s political opponents.

Democrats sought to use the hearing, coming on the heels of the indictment of former FBI Director James Comey, to warn of what they view as the politicization of a department that has prided itself on remaining independent from the White House.

Bondi brushed aside with seeming disdain questions

about her tumultuous tenure, flatly refusing to answer time and again as Democrats pressed her on politically charged investigations, the firings of career prosecutors and other matters. Her refusal to engage on the questions meant little if any fresh insight was offered about her actions and decisions, with Bondi instead opting to respond to Democrats’ attacks by echoing conservative claims that President Joe Biden’s Justice Department — which brought two criminal cases against Trump — was the one that had been weaponized.

“They were playing politics with law enforcement powers and will go down as a historic betrayal of public trust,” Bondi

said of the Biden Justice Department. “This is the kind of conduct that shatters the American people’s faith in our law enforcement system. We will work to earn that back every single day.”

The hearing split early along deeply partisan lines, with Republicans repeatedly leaping to her defense to highlight the criminal cases against the president that they say show the institution she inherited was deeply politicized. They pointed to revelations from a day earlier that the FBI had analyzed phone records of several Republican lawmakers as part of an investigation into Trump’s efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden, a Democrat.

Kremlin welcomes Trump's nuclear pact offer

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Monday welcomed President Donald Trump's comments about Russia's offer to extend the last remaining nuclear arms treaty with the United States, saying it raises hope for keeping the pact alive after it expires in February.

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared his readiness to adhere to nuclear arms limits under the 2010 New START arms reduction treaty for one more year, and he urged Washington to follow suit. When asked about the proposal, Trump said Sunday it "sounds like a good idea to me."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov welcomed Trump's statement, noting that "it gives grounds for optimism that the United States will support Pres-

ident Putin's initiative."

While offering to extend the New START agreement, Putin said its expiration would be destabilizing and could fuel proliferation of nuclear weapons. He also argued that maintaining limits on nuclear weapons could also be an important step in "creating an atmosphere conducive to substantive strategic dialogue with the U.S."

The Russian leader reaffirmed the offer Thursday, noting that Russia and the U.S. could use the one-year extension to work on a successor pact.

Such an agreement will involve complex talks that could deal with battlefield nuclear weapons and prospective strategic weapons systems that Russia has developed, Putin said.

He mentioned the longtime

U.S. push for including China in any prospective nuclear arms control pact but emphasized that it's up to Washington to try to persuade Beijing to do so. China has rejected the idea, arguing that its nuclear arsenals are far smaller than those of the U.S. and Russia.

Putin also argued that the nuclear arsenals of NATO members Britain and France should be included in a prospective agreement.

He noted at the forum that some in the U.S. oppose New START's extension, and "if they don't need it, we don't need it either. We feel confident about our nuclear shield."

Putin's offer came at a time of heightened tensions between Russia and the West, with concerns rising that fighting in Ukraine could spread beyond its

borders.

The New START, signed by then-President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. The pact also stipulates the need for on-site inspections to verify compliance, although inspections were halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and never resumed.

The treaty was originally supposed to expire in 2021 but was extended for five years.

Arms control advocates long have voiced concern about the treaty's looming expiration and the lack of dialogue to secure a successor deal, warning of the possibility of a new nuclear arms race and the increased risk of a nuclear conflict.

Gaza peace talks enter into second day in Egypt

Associated Press

CAIRO — Peace talks between Israel and Hamas resumed at an Egyptian resort city on Tuesday, the two-year anniversary of the militant group's surprise attack on Israel that triggered the bloody conflict that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The second day of indirect negotiations at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh is focused

on a plan proposed by President Donald Trump last week that aims to bring about an end to the war.

A senior Egyptian official involved in the ceasefire talks said Hamas has demanded guarantees that Israel won't return to war after the release of the remaining 48 hostages taken in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack, 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

the sensitive, closed-door negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the war will only end when all the hostages are returned and Hamas has been disarmed. He has accepted Trump's plan, which calls for Gaza to be placed under international governance and for Hamas to be disarmed, elements the militants have yet to accept.

The plan has received wide-

spread international backing, and Trump told reporters on Monday that he thought there was a "really good chance" of a lasting deal.

Senior officials from the U.S., Qatar and Turkey continue to arrive in Sharm el-Sheikh to join the negotiations, the Egyptian official said. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty told journalists that members of the U.S. delegation would join the talks on Wednesday.

A divided Israel marks 2 years since Oct. 7 attack

Associated Press

REIM, Israel — Thousands of people converged on southern Israel on Tuesday to mourn the dead as the nation marked two years since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack plunged the region into a devastating war, while Israel and Hamas pressed on with indirect peace talks in Egypt.

The main memorial in Tel

Aviv, planned for later in the evening and organized by the bereaved families, is separate from a ceremony that the government plans to hold on the anniversary next week according to the Hebrew calendar.

The split in the ceremonies reflects deep divisions over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership, which

many blame for the failure to secure a ceasefire that would free the remaining hostages.

In the Gaza Strip, where Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed tens of thousands of people and razed entire towns and cities, those who can are fleeing another Israeli invasion of Gaza City while others are sheltering in place. Many are unable to

make the journey south.

It's been two years since thousands of Hamas-led militants poured into southern Israel after a surprise barrage of rockets. They stormed army bases, farming communities and an outdoor music festival, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, including women, children and older adults.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Tyrese Gibson booked into Georgia jail, released

GA ATLANTA — Tyrese Gibson was booked into a Georgia jail early Friday, a week after he failed to turn himself in following an arrest warrant for cruelty to animals, police said.

The “Fast & Furious” actor was released the same day on a \$20,000 bond, Fulton County Police Captain Nicole Dwyer said.

He has still not turned over his four Cane Corso dogs to police, who authorities say killed a neighbor’s small dog in mid-September and had roamed the neighborhood unsupervised at various times over the past few months.

Gibson’s lawyer, Gabe Banks, had previously told AP that the actor wasn’t home when the incident took place and “immediately made the difficult decision to rehome his dogs to a safe and loving environment,” including two adult dogs and three puppies.

Hurricane Priscilla strengthens in Pacific

FL MIAMI — Hurricane Priscilla neared Category 3 status on Tuesday in the Pacific as a new tropical storm formed in the Atlantic, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

Priscilla had maximum sustained winds of 110 mph and was headed north-northwest at 10 mph, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Priscilla, centered about 290 miles west of Cabo Corrientes, Mexico, and about 215 miles

south of the southern tip of Baja California, was expected to continue strengthening. Swells were reaching the coast of Mexico. Life threatening surf and rip currents were likely, forecasters said.

Meanwhile in the Atlantic Ocean, Tropical Storm Jerry formed Tuesday with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. It was centered about 1,315 miles east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands but was traveling west at 24 mph.

Forecasters expect Jerry to strengthen into a hurricane in the coming days. Swells were expected to reach the Leeward Islands on Thursday.

Foster Poultry Farms recalls chicken corn dogs

NY NEW YORK — Chicken product maker Foster Poultry Farms is recalling more than 3.8 million pounds of chicken corn dog products after wood was found in the batter, resulting in injuries.

According to a notice on the Agriculture Department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service site, the company, based in Livingston, Calif., received numerous complaints about finding wood in the batter of the products, including reports of at least five injuries.

The chicken corn dog products were made between July 30, 2024, and Aug. 4, 2025, and sold under a variety of names, including Chicken Corn Dogs Batter Wrapped Chicken Frankfurters on a Stick, Corn Dogs Chicken Franks Dipped in Honey Batter and other names.

The recall follows a previous recall a week earlier of 58 mil-

lion pounds of corn dogs and other sausage-on-a-stick products made by Texas-based Hillshire Brands, a subsidiary of Tyson Foods.

Firefighters battle blaze at ruptured gas line

OH CLEVELAND — Cleveland firefighters are investigating the cause of an overnight fire on the city’s East Side.

At 1:37 a.m. Monday, Cleveland firefighters were dispatched to the 3600 block of East 47th Street, where a ruptured natural gas line fueled the blaze.

Firefighters also discovered tanks of propane and acetylene — a gas that is used to fuel welding torches, said Lt. Mike Norman, the spokesman of the city’s fire department.

New law gives Uber, Lyft drivers right to unionize

CA SACRAMENTO — More than 800,000 drivers for ride-hailing companies in California will soon be able to join a union and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits under a measure signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Supporters said the new law will open a path for the largest expansion of private sector collective bargaining rights in the state’s history.

The legislation is a significant compromise in the yearslong battle between labor unions and tech companies.

California is the second state where Uber and Lyft drivers can unionize as independent contractors.

Massachusetts voters passed a ballot referendum in November allowing unionization, while drivers in Illinois and Minnesota are pushing for similar rights.

Ex-NFL quarterback stabbed, charged

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Former NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez is now facing a felony battery charge for what authorities said Monday was a fight over parking, in addition to the misdemeanor charges that the Fox Sports analyst was already facing from a weekend incident in Indianapolis.

Marion County prosecutor Ryan Mears announced the felony charge of battery involving serious bodily injury, which carries a potential sentence of one to six years in prison. The investigation is ongoing.

“We are literally talking about people fighting over a parking space and-or a dispute about where people are parking, and it resulted in someone receiving just incredibly significant injuries,” the prosecutor said.

A police affidavit alleges Sanchez, 38, smelling of alcohol, accosted a 69-year-old truck driver who backed into a hotel’s loading docks in downtown Indianapolis, leading to a confrontation early Saturday outside the vehicle that prompted the driver to pull out a knife in defense.

The former New York Jets quarterback was pepper-sprayed and stabbed multiple times during the altercation, according to court records filed Sunday.

— From wire reports

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Brewers beat Cubs for 2-0 series lead

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Andrew Vaughn and Jackson Chourio each hit a three-run homer, William Contreras added a solo shot and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 7-3 on Monday night to move one win from a trip to the National League Championship Series.

Milwaukee has a 2-0 advantage in the best-of-five Division Series, which shifts to Wrigley Field in Chicago for Game 3 on Wednesday. Teams taking a 2-0 lead in a best-of-five postseason series have won 80 of 90 times, including 54 sweeps.

The Brewers are attempting to win a postseason series for the first time since 2018, when they reached Game 7 of the NLCS.

“We’ve just got a good collection of guys that are happy they’re in the big leagues,” Milwaukee manager Pat Murphy said. “I call them cliffhangers — guys that don’t know if their locker is going to be there when

they get back to the deal. That’s a fun thing. That hunger makes us look like we know what we’re doing. It’s pretty cool.”

Vaughn and Chourio hit the first two three-run homers in Brewers postseason history. Contreras’ solo shot in the third inning broke a 3-all tie.

Cubs slugger Seiya Suzuki hit a three-run homer of his own — a 440-foot shot to left-center in the first inning against Aaron Ashby. After coming out of the bullpen in 42 of his 43 regular-season appearances, Ashby served as an opener in this one.

But Chicago didn’t score again. Nick Mears, Jacob Misiorowski, Chad Patrick, Jared Koenig, Trevor Megill and Abner Uribe combined for 7½ innings of shutout relief in which they allowed just one hit.

“We’ve got to find a way to just create more pressure, and that’s baserunners, hits, walks,” Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. “We’ve got to have more pres-

sure and make innings and kind of pitching decisions much tougher on the other side.”

Misiorowski came on in the third and threw three scoreless innings to earn the win while hitting at least 100 mph on 31 of his 57 pitches. Each of the rookie’s first eight pitches went at least 102.6 mph, and he topped out at 104.3.

“I think I was so fired up, adrenaline pumping, you know, didn’t really know where my feet were,” Misiorowski said. “But we landed, so it was fun. It was a lot of fun.”

While Misiorowski was sizzling, Chicago’s Shota Imanaga was fizzling.

Twice in the first three innings, Imanaga retired the first two batters before running into trouble that resulted in a homer. Imanaga has allowed multiple homers in six of his last eight appearances.

Vaughn tied the game in the bottom of the first with a drive

over the left-field wall after Contreras and Christian Yelich delivered two-out singles. According to MLB, this was the first playoff game in which each team hit a three-run homer in the first inning.

“I think it just brought the energy back into the dugout, and that’s what Vaughn has been doing ever since he’s got here,” Contreras said through an interpreter. “He’s been able to put big swings on balls and continue producing for us like he has. I think it was one of the big keys to us winning the game there.”

Chourio was back in the lead-off spot after tightness in his right hamstring caused him to leave in the second inning of Milwaukee’s 9-3 Game 1 victory on Saturday. He went 3 for 3 with three RBIs in the opener before his exit, making him the first player to have three hits in the first two innings of a postseason game.

Snell shines, Dodgers hold off late Phillies rally

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Blake Snell had yielded to the Los Angeles Dodgers’ bullpen after a masterful start and was just a bystander when the Phillies — without any help from their All-Star trio at the top of the batting order — finally mustered a rally in the ninth inning.

A leadoff single. A two-run double. A headfirst slide — safe!

Philadelphia bats and a previously silenced crowd both finally rose to the occasion and their feet.

Snell allowed one hit in six shutout innings, striking out nine, and Los Angeles made a couple of clutch defensive plays to barely turn back the Phillies’ late rally Monday night for a 4-3 win in Game 2 of their NL Division Series.

Freddie Freeman made a game-saving pick at first base

and Shohei Ohtani delivered an RBI single that helped the Dodgers take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five playoff. The defending World Series champs can reach their 17th National League Championship Series with a Game 3 win Wednesday in Los Angeles.

“That was a heck of a ballgame. Lots to unpack in that one,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said after his team improved to 4-0 this postseason. “Great ballgame, great plays. Huge win.”

In the bottom of the ninth, Nick Castellanos slid headfirst into second base, narrowly eluding a tag, for a two-run double off Blake Treinen that at last sent the crowd of more than 45,000 into a frenzy and made it a 4-3 game.

Alex Vesia came in to face Bryson Stott, who tried to ad-

vance Castellanos with a bunt. But third baseman Max Muncy wheeled and threw to shortstop Mookie Betts sprinting over to cover the bag in time to tag out Castellanos.

Pinch-hitter Harrison Bader singled and Max Kepler grounded into a fielder’s choice that left runners at the corners with two outs.

Roki Sasaki entered and retired NL batting champ Trea Turner on a groundout to second for the rookie’s second career save — both in this series. Freeman went to his knees to pick Tommy Edman’s poor throw on his backhand, keeping his right toe on the bag before rolling over onto his back with the ball in his mitt.

“Obviously, Tommy threw one into the dirt. Thankfully I was able to catch it and stay on the base,” Freeman said. “That

was a stressful inning.”

Snell, who walked four and threw 99 pitches, was tangled in a duel with Jesús Luzardo until the seventh.

Luzardo threw 24 pitches in the first before the left-hander settled down and retired 17 straight Dodgers until Game 1 star Teoscar Hernández singled leading off the inning. Freeman doubled and that was all for Luzardo.

After reliever Orion Kerkering got a strikeout, Kiké Hernández hit a slow roller to shortstop and Turner rushed an off-target throw home that allowed Teoscar Hernández to score with an excellent slide.

Smith lined a two-run single for a 3-0 lead and Ohtani — who struck out four times in the opener and again leading off Game 2 — ripped a run-scoring single for his first hit of the series.

Jaguars top Chiefs on Lawrence's wild run

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Trevor Lawrence tripped and fell to the ground, stumbled trying to get up, finally got back on his feet and then scrambled for a 1-yard touchdown with 23 seconds remaining—turning a comical miscue into an improbable score—and the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Kansas City Chiefs 31-28 on Monday night.

“What a crazy, crazy finish,” said Lawrence, who was serenaded by teammates in the locker room to celebrate his 26th birthday.

The chaos ended with the Jaguars (4-1) snapping an eight-game losing streak to the Chiefs (2-3) and matching their win total from last season.

Patrick Mahomes, who drove Kansas City into position to take a 28-24 lead with 1:45 to play, had a final chance with 16 seconds remaining. But he failed to muster much of a threat, and his final throw was incomplete, setting off a raucous celebration for the home team.

Lawrence ran for two touchdowns on the night and also threw

for a score, helping balance a performance that included two turnovers.

He was perfect when it mattered most for the Jaguars. Lawrence dropped a precision pass to Brian Thomas Jr. for a 33-yard gain on the go-ahead drive and then hit Dymari Brown for another big gain. Chamarrri Conner was flagged for pass interference against Thomas on the next play, setting up Lawrence's trip and score.

Right guard Patrick Mekari stepped on Lawrence's right foot as he took the snap, and the quarterback fell several yards into the backfield. His first thought was “throw it away.” But when he got to his feet, he saw a lane and took it. He broke a tackle and somehow found the end zone.

Lawrence completed 18 of 25 passes for 221 yards. He also ran for a team-high 54 yards.

Mahomes accounted for two touchdowns, and Kareem Hunt ran for two more scores for Kansas City, which had won 23 straight when leading by at least 14 points. The Chiefs took an early 14-0 lead, thanks in part to a fumble

by Lawrence at the goal line.

Jacksonville's comeback got a huge boost from linebacker Devin Lloyd, the AFC defensive player of the month for September. Lloyd returned an interception 99 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter. It was the longest interception return in the regular season by a linebacker in NFL history.

Lloyd stepped in front of Mahomes' pass intended for JuJu Smith-Schuster at the goal line and took off the other way for his league-leading fifth takeaway.

He juiced Mahomes and Hunt, then got up to full speed along the Jaguars' sideline. He picked up a block from Josh Hines-Allen and then held the ball tight as Tyquan Thornton tried to knock it loose at the 5-yard line.

“It's a big win,” Lawrence said. “Obviously it's a good team. They've been a good team for a long time. They're hard to beat, they really are. ... At the end of the game, they're always in it and they always seem to make the plays.”

Jacksonville two-way standout Travis Hunter made two big-time

plays, including the fourth-longest reception by a rookie this season. Hunter hauled in a 44-yarder in the third quarter—and it was no easy catch.

The Heisman Trophy winner jumped and reached over Conner to snare the ball and then held on despite getting his legs wiped out by Bryan Cook. The Jaguars scored four plays later to tie the game at 14-all. His catch-and-run in the second quarter was nearly as good. He took a short pass in the left flat and juiced two defenders en route to a 12-yard gain.

Kansas City WR Xavier Worthy hobbled off the field in the third quarter after appearing to tweak an ankle but returned a few plays later. Worthy had been listed as questionable because he got off the team flight with a swollen ankle. Rookie LT Josh Simmons played despite being added to the injury report shortly before kickoff with an illness.

Jaguars TE Brenton Strange left the game in the first half with left hip injury and did not return. Jacksonville played without DE Travon Walker, who had surgery to repair an injured left wrist.

Ravens' young stand-ins unprepared when called to action

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — John Harbaugh sees Baltimore's defensive problems right now as a matter of experience and execution, not effort.

“I thought our defense played really, really hard—and there were some big mistakes,” the veteran coach said Monday. “There were some mistakes that some young guys made that hurt us.”

The Ravens took the field severely undermanned last weekend, with quarterback Lamar Jackson and several other All-Pros and Pro Bowlers out. They'd said the right things about trying to overcome their injuries, but they looked like a decimated team from start to

finish. Their 44-10 loss to the Houston Texans matched the most lopsided home defeat in franchise history, and Baltimore wasn't competitive on either side of the ball.

It wasn't hard to see why. Only three Ravens players were in for every defensive snap, and all were rookies: safety Malaki Starks (first round), linebacker Teddy Buchanan (fourth round) and safety Reuben Lowery III (undrafted).

Two other rookies—second-round edge rusher Mike Green and undrafted cornerback Keyon Martin—were in the starting lineup. Second-year cornerback T.J. Tampa played 60 snaps after playing 59 in his entire career previously.

Some of those players could certainly become solid contributors in time, but asking them to replace an All-Pro like Roquan Smith or a versatile star like Kyle Hamilton proved to be untenable. And Baltimore doesn't have many other options.

There was no update Monday on Jackson's status, but the Ravens (1-4) look like a team that will give it a shot this weekend against the Los Angeles Rams—but are really just anxious to get to their open date in Week 7 and then regroup.

And hope the season is still salvageable.

Baltimore has had to pick and choose where to commit money the past few years, giving out significant contracts to Jackson,

Smith, Hamilton, defensive tackle Nnamdi Madubuike and tackle Ronnie Stanley. Then the Ravens had to play a game without any of them.

You can't have a star at every position, but if Baltimore was hoping some unheralded youngsters could keep the team afloat in the short term, last weekend was eye opening. A lot of players on the field didn't look ready.

“You can't sit there and say, ‘All is lost.’ We just don't,” Harbaugh said.

“Year after year, it's proven that that approach gives you the best chance to be successful. We've done it before, other teams have done it before, so we're going to go to work on that and try to make that happen.”

DODEA athletes permitted to play again

BY DAVE ORNAUER
AND MATT WAGNER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — DODEA-Pacific and DODEA-Europe got the OK on Tuesday for high school athletics and extracurricular activities to resume despite the government shutdown.

“DODEA-Pacific has received updated direction allowing extracurricular activities, including athletics and after-school clubs, to be considered excepted activities during the current lapse in appropriations,” an email from DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson stated.

DODEA-Europe spokeswoman Jessica Tackaberry confirmed high school sports were deemed an excepted activity Tuesday, allowing them to continue during the government shutdown.

Practices for the Pacific and Europe will resume Wednesday, Tackaberry said.

“Students are already at school, coaches and athletic directors have their schedules and plans, and we want to make sure the students have the right equipment, gear to be able to prepare — and of course transportation, for parents and fam-

ilies to be able to coordinate that,” she explained for the Wednesday restart.

Teams in Europe were already scheduled to take this weekend off, and that won’t change.

Tackaberry didn’t say if the European golf championships will go on Wednesday and Thursday as originally scheduled. She said DODEA is reviewing the scheduling of the rest of the fall season.

It was not clear Tuesday why the decision to shut down sports and other extracurricular activities during the lockdown was reversed or who made that decision.

This weekend is the final weekend of regular-season competitions in DODEA-Pacific. Far East tournaments in cross country, volleyball and tennis will go on as scheduled, Ferguson’s statement said. Tennis is scheduled for Oct. 15-18, volleyball Oct. 16-18 and cross country Oct. 17-18.

“Unfortunately, it will not be possible to reschedule competitive events that were canceled last week, as Fall Far East Championship dates cannot be changed,” Ferguson’s statement said.

Among the contests not being

rescheduled are four homecoming football games: Nile C. Kinnick at Humphreys, Kadena at Kubasaki, Yokota at Robert D. Edgren and Matthew C. Perry at Zama.

The reaction around the Pacific was immediate and positive.

“Overjoyed,” said Kubasaki tennis player Josephine Zwierzynski. She played and won the girls singles Tuesday in a tournament not affiliated with the Okinawa high schools, but featuring players from the Dragons and Panthers.

Key to resuming DODEA-Pacific athletics is the chance to play in the Far East tournaments, players and coaches said.

“We’ve only been able to play Kadena” this season, Kubasaki tennis player Sophia Wurdinger said. “Now we can go to Far East. Just being able to play other teams, that’s the thing I was most excited for.”

Reaction in the Dragons’ classrooms and hallways was vociferous. “All the volleyball players started screaming” both in and out of his classroom, Kubasaki’s Maximus Ramos said. “The athletes were ecstatic.”

Football coaches around the region said they were glad to re-

sume the chase for Far East Divisions I and II titles. Those games are scheduled for Oct. 24, D-I featuring Humphreys at the Dragons and the D-II pairing still to be determined.

“The Blackhawks and my coaching staff are ready to get back to the grind,” Humphreys coach Reggie Meno said.

Zama’s game at Yokota has major D-II playoff implications.

“I was just writing a letter to my team and parents about how our season was essentially over” earlier Tuesday, coach Shawen Smith said. “Luckily, I didn’t send it out.”

The resumption of sports came too late for E.J. King and Matthew C. Perry’s volleyball teams to play in this weekend’s Western Japan Athletic Association tournament. Originally slated to be played at the Cobras, it has moved to Nagoya International and King and the Samurai are unable to play, Cobras coach and athletics director Ricky Andrew said.

Kubasaki played as the Shisa Volleyball Club last weekend at the 11th American School In Japan YUJO tournament, finishing second to Christian Academy Japan. The Dragons will host the D-I Far East tournament.

Lightning players suspended for conduct in preseason finale

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The NHL has suspended Tampa Bay forward Scott Sabourin four games and defenseman J.J. Moser for two games for their actions in the Lightning’s preseason finale against the Florida Panthers on Saturday night.

Additionally, Tampa Bay was fined \$100,000 and Lightning coach Jon Cooper was fined \$25,000, the NHL said without further explanation.

Tampa Bay called up six players from their AHL affiliate in Syracuse for the game. Those six combined for 77 penalty minutes and five of the six drew either a match penalty, misconduct or game misconduct during the matchup.

The NHL rulings, handed down Monday,

means Sabourin will forfeit \$16,145.84 — or roughly \$850 for every second he played in Saturday’s penalty-filled debacle. Moser will lose \$35,156.26.

It’s unclear when Sabourin will serve the suspension, since the Lightning sent him back to Syracuse of the American Hockey League on Monday. He played in only one NHL game last season.

Sabourin was given a match penalty for going after Florida defenseman Aaron Ekblad just 2:17 into the game. That hit set the tone for a matchup where officials called 65 penalties, issued 13 game misconducts and handed out 312 penalty minutes.

At one point, Tampa Bay had three skaters on its bench.

“That was a first for me,” Cooper said

after that game. “I think we had more coaches than players on the bench at one point.”

Moser’s suspension came for boarding Panthers forward Jesper Boqvist during that game. Moser was assessed a major penalty and game misconduct.

Sabourin was one of six players called up Friday by the Lightning for Saturday’s game. Those moves came one day after Tampa Bay and Florida had another preseason game featuring 49 penalties and 186 penalty minutes.

Ekblad left Saturday’s game after the hit from Sabourin. He was able to practice Monday and was expected to play when the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions open their season at home Tuesday.